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REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

Richard III. as Duke of Gloucester and King of England. By Caroline A. Halsted, author of the "Life of Margaret Beaufort," &c. 2 vols. 8vo. Longmans.

A CURIOUS portrait of Richard, from a picture in the possession of Lord Stafford, forms an interesting frontispiece to this work; and a prefix to the second volume, from the College of Arms, of the king, his queen, and son, is another very appropriate illustration.

The history itself is honourable to the industry, talents, and love of justice of the author. Recent monumental and literary discoveries having added many certainties to the historic doubts of Walpole, she has examined them with care, and placed them in opposition to the traditional, dramatical, and inimical portraiture which has been received as truth concerning this remarkable sovereign. Nothing can be more clear than that his character has been grievously misrepresented, and that, instead of the monster he has been drawn, *nulla virtute redemptus*, he was, if not a better, at least not a worse man than his principal contemporaries, whether considered as a mighty subject, a royal prince, or a reigning monarch. The fame of Richard, indeed, never had a fair chance. His position, in regard to his royal brother's family and his queen's relatives, exposed him to their hate; and his conquest by the rival race of Lancaster, when his friends were slain or dispersed, and the long and severe rule of Henry VII., in whose time the calumnies on his memory were heaped together, afford but few grounds to hope for impartial history, and many to induce us to expect every species of false accusation.

And then, to crown the counterfeit presentment, came Shakspere with his dazzling plays, wherein, besides embodying every disadvantageous rumour, he has necessarily, for the sake of stage-effect, put into action men and events separated in fact by long intervals of time, and thus virtually superseded history, and made the play the thing wherewith to paint the vices of this king. Posterity has consequently taken Shakspere, and rejected probability and truth. It has figured Richard as monstrous from his birth; a warrior and a murderer when he was but eight years old; a general, like Tom Thumb, when some twenty-five pounds in weight; and the most crafty and unscrupulous of statesmen by the period he got into his 'teens. Miss Halsted has dissipated many of these clouds, and shewn that he was filial and affectionate to his mother to the end of his life; that he was a good husband to his Lady Anne, and fond father of their son the Prince of Wales; that he was ever most faithful, loyal, and attached to his brother Edward; that he could have little if any thing politically to do with the condemnation and death of Clarence; that he could be very slightly if at all misshapen; that his "usurpation" has much to be urged in its defence; that the murder of his nephews not only rests on no contemporary authority, but is in itself a very problematical rumour: in short, that all the crimes reported of him are unsupported by sufficient authority, and the gradual strength-

ening and accumulation of after-times, when to revile him was to curry favour with the powers that be, and to take his part would have been rather a dangerous experiment. For here, indeed, the players have been the chronicle and abstract of the age; and, wanting their good word, the last of the Plantagenets has become a byword of reproach, and shame, and infamy.

In coping with the Shaksperian impressions, so difficult to shake or remove, Miss Halsted, in the earlier portion of her task, is somewhat deficient in lucid arrangement; but the genealogies disposed of, though with some retrospective wanderings, her narrative is clear and consistent. In many parts it is quite conclusive against received belief; in general it corrects numerous historical errors; and in all it effects a very striking improvement on the mind, as to the real merits and demerits of Richard the Third. All the leading points of his life, and the allegations against him, are sifted, in juxtaposition with the evidence which has appeared within the last few years; and very different conclusions are afforded by the survey from those hitherto accredited. Nor do we doubt that, having thus set the example, much more will yet come to light respecting the deeds of Richard. The Tower of London, the Rolls, Privy-seals, and perhaps the State-paper Office, must contain many crabb'd documents yet unexamined (for they are difficult and tedious to decipher, even by the best antiquarians), and which will still further disclose the particulars of his varied and active career; and then the acknowledged brave warrior, consummate politician, and admired legislator, may, like another potentate often referred to, turn out not so black as he is painted.

That some of Miss Halsted's arguments are conjectural ought to be stated; and then they are only worth so much as is of the same order on the other side—*quantum valeat*. Among these one of the most prominent is, that, from the age of eight or nine to fourteen, he was the ward of the mighty Earl of Warwick, and disciplined in military endurance and science under him. An extract on this subject will serve as a specimen of the style and spirit of the work; for in a review like ours, it would be impossible to discuss even one of the great questions mooted by the author.

"That he remained under his mother's especial care up to the usual age of seven, has been already shewn by the fact of his being seized with her, and associated in her imprisonment, after the sacking of Ludlow Castle; and it is made still further evident by her despatching him so promptly to Utrecht, on the occasion of his father's death. But from this period the young prince's name is no longer mentioned in connexion with the Lady Cecily. His royal brother sent messengers to bring him to England, and provided both him and Clarence, on their arrival, with instructors suited to their age and high station; but there is no mention made of Gloucester's rejoicing his widowed parent, or sharing her retirement at Berkhamstead. Whether the wardship of Richard was granted as a reward to one of the powerful supporters of the crown, as was customary

in these times with minors so richly endowed, or whether Edward IV. retained in his own hands this vast source of wealth and power, cannot now be ascertained; but as Sir George Buck states that the king, 'when he called home his two brothers, entered them into the practice of arms,' it appears most probable that on his return from Flanders, Gloucester was forthwith submitted to the prescribed probation of the succeeding seven years, in the abode of some powerful baron, which, as above shewn, was then usual with such as were destined to perform the duties of a warrior knight, and to be well tutored in the chivalrous accomplishments of the age. This surmise appears to be the more certain as regards this prince, because with the exception of letters from King Edward, conferring on his young brother, in addition to the honours and possessions before enumerated, the castles, manors, lands, &c., which had been forfeited by the attainder of Henry Beaufort, late Duke of Somerset (anno 3d Edw. IV.), and the grant of Caister in Norfolk, and Werdale Forest in the Palatinate of Durham, no other public document relating to him is on record, until the fifth year of his royal brother's reign, when, by an entry on the issue roll of the exchequer, it is recorded that money was 'paid to Richard Earl of Warwick for costs and expenses incurred by him on behalf of the Duke of Gloucester, the king's brother.' This entry is very valuable, not merely as a guide to the probable nature of Richard's mode of life after his emancipation from childhood, but it will be found also highly important in explaining much that has hitherto appeared mysterious in his after years; it proving how early he was domesticated in the family of the Earl of Warwick, who, if not actually his guardian, and as such laying the foundation of views that were remarkable in their final accomplishment, was, it is most clear, invested with some charge respecting him personally, that led to the grant of money now under consideration. Of the nature of this power, however, at least in a modified sense, there can exist no doubt; for the usage of the times reconciles the fact of the military guardianship, if considered in that light alone; and though its full extent as a wardship may be disputed, yet the conjecture, even to this extreme point, seems reasonable, from the tenor of this entry agreeing so entirely with that of petitions in the Feudal, presented by guardians for similar payment relative to wards. The age of Richard Duke of Gloucester at the time of this entry (1465) was fourteen years: now this corresponds precisely with the intermediate probationary term exacted by the laws of chivalry for the knightly instruction of noble youths at that period. This fact, taken in conjunction with the omission of all mention of this prince's name in political affairs during the intervening years, and the particular wording of the document, 'for costs and expenses incurred by him on behalf of the Duke of Gloucester,' seems to warrant the conclusion, that Richard the renowned Earl of Warwick, the 'king-maker' and the king-dethroner, was the warrior lord selected by King Edward IV. for initiating his young brother into the noble

practice of arms."—"The military fame which distinguished Gloucester in after years, and which has been so highly extolled even by his enemies, bespeaks him to have been tutored by no ordinary person, and would have done full justice to lessons so ably inculcated, even if his instructor had been, as is surmised, the powerful and renowned Warwick himself. At the castle of Middleham, then the hereditary demesne of his illustrious kinsman, did the young Richard of Gloucester, in all probability, pass his boyish days. There, in the domestic circle of England's proudest baron, he must have been associated with the flower of British chivalry; and at a time when, without reference to his extreme youth, and with a total disregard of all existing records, he is universally believed to have been concocting schemes fraught with destruction to his fellow-men, he was in all likelihood practising with his youthful and noble compatriots the manly exercises that marked the age; some bold and athletic, others sportive, with 'haw and bound, seasoned with ladies' smiles,' and forming those early friendships which lasted through life, and which, from their devotedness and durability, form a striking feature in Gloucester's chequered career. There too, in all probability, it may be inferred that Richard first bestowed his affections on his gentle cousin Anne, Warwick's youngest and most lovely daughter, who, treading in the footsteps of his mother, the Lady Cecily, from being the companion in childhood of the orphan prince, and then perchance the 'lady love' of his chivalrous probation, acquired an influence over him, that led in after years to his selecting her as his consort when she was in adversity, and he in the zenith of his greatness. Very many historical notices and chance local details afford strong presumptive evidence to warrant this conclusion. 'The partiality of Richard for Middleham through life is,' says its historian, 'well known'; and Sir George Buck, speaking of his childhood, states, 'that this Richard Plantagenet lived for the most part in the castle of Middleham,' which could not have been the case during his father's lifetime, because Middleham was the baronial hall of Warwick, and not that of York. A yet more important link in the chain of evidence is afforded by the association of Gloucester's name with the young heir of the house of Lovell, in the identical entry that connects this prince in boyhood with the Earl of Warwick. After the words in the exchequer roll, above quoted, viz. 'Paid to Richard Earl of Warwick for costs and expenses incurred by him on behalf of the Duke of Gloucester, the king's brother,' there follows immediately this additional clause: 'and for the exhibition and marriage of the son and heir of the Lord Lovell.' Now the custody and wardship of minors at this period, as there has been before occasion to notice, was a source both of immense profit to the barons, and of unlimited patronage to the crown; and it may be reckoned among the many serious grievances which the corruption of the feudal system brought upon the country, especially as relates to marriage. The circumstance, therefore, of the association of these two noble youths with Warwick in one public document, together with their corresponding ages, and the devoted attachment which induced such marks of favour through life from the prince, and devotion to him even to death from the Lord Lovell, is, to say the least, strong presumptive proof that both were associated in boyhood under the roof of the illustrious 'king-maker,' the Earl of Warwick, and both perhaps

connected in wardship with that almost sovereign chief. No decisive authority, indeed, appears extant to warrant the positive assumption of so important a fact; but as the historical traditions of distant periods are often verified by official records, so the document now quoted affords the strongest ground for believing that Gloucester was, for some years, under the entire charge of the great 'Warwick,' either in a civil or warlike capacity. The inference thus drawn merits deep consideration, arising from the value that attaches to every particular that can throw light on the early days of a monarch whose life is so wrapped in mystery as that of Richard III."

At this period, young as he was, he was created a knight of the Garter; and the whole of the account is remarkable, as affording proof at how early an age mere boys of our days were, in these stirring days, initiated into the most important affairs, and entrusted with the most mature and manly offices. They seem to have been pushed into the turmoil of existence when we are at school! Systems of education were somewhat extraordinary four centuries ago! What it made Richard is thus summed up by his present vindicator and biographer:—

"Perhaps no instance on record better demonstrates the truth of this hypothesis than the unmitigated prejudice which is universally felt with reference to the fallen monarch. Of his merits as Duke of Gloucester—of his brilliant career as a firm, faithful, and uncompromising prince, striving to retrieve his brother's evil fortune, and to sustain the royal prerogative—of his undeviating fidelity to Edward IV. amidst every reverse and amidst all temptation—of his stern resistance of the French king's bribes, and wise neutrality in the factious proceedings which distracted the English court,—of all this, and yet more, of his shining abilities, his cultivated mind, his legislative wisdom, his generosity, his clemency, and the misfortunes that led to his downfall, but little notice is taken: every bright point in his character has been carefully concealed, every manly virtue scrupulously withheld, as if by common consent; and a monster of depravity, whose very name seemed to typify deformity of the most revolting description, corporeal as well as mental, is the impression that prevailed for ages, and, to a certain degree, still prevails, respecting a monarch whose actions, during his brief reign alone, deserved a more just, a more faithful representation. If a veil of mystery was thus studiously thrown over his public career, it is not to be marvelled at that still fewer records remain of his private life."

"A close examination into the earliest records connected with his career will prove that, among all the heavy and fearful charges which are brought against him, few, if any, originate with his contemporaries, but that the dark deeds which have rendered his name so odious were first promulgated as rumour, and admitted as such by Fabian, Polydore Virgil, and Sir T. More, in the reign of his successor; that they were multiplied in number, and less unhesitatingly fixed upon him, by Grafton, Hall, and Hollinshead, during the ensuing reign; and that towards the close of the Tudor dynasty, every modification being cast aside, they were recorded as historical truths by Lord Bacon, Sir Richard Baker, and many others, and rendered yet more appalling by the moral and personal deformity with which King Richard was by that time invested by the aid of the drama. If, however, by a retrograde movement, these calumnies are found gradually to lessen one by one, and that the progress can be traced to no

more copious source than the evil fortune which overwhelmed King Richard at Bosworth, and gave the palm of victory to his rival,—if his administration, though brief, affords evidence of the sound views which influenced his conduct,—and if, apart from fear and from jealousy of the baronial power, he resolutely pursued that system of domestic policy which he felt would ameliorate the condition of his people, and contribute to the prosperity of the country at large,—then surely, as was observed at the opening of this memoir, it is time that justice was done him as a monarch, and that the strictest inquiry should be made into the measure of his guilt as a man. Time, indeed, as was farther remarked, may not have softened the asperity with which a hostile faction delighted to magnify his evil deeds; but time, and the publication of contemporary documents, have made known many redeeming qualities, and certified to such noble exemplary deeds as already suffice to rescue King Richard's memory from at least a portion of the aggravated crimes which have so long rendered his name odious, and inspired great doubts as to the truth of other accusations which rest on no more stable authority."

We have only to add, in recommendation of this able work, so honourable to a female pen when female pens are doing so much to illustrate genuine history, that an appendix to each volume contains a mass of corroboratory and valuable documents which support the author's views.

The H—Family, and other Tales, by Fredrika Bremer. Translated by Mary Howitt. 2 vols. post 8vo. London, Longman and Co. A PORTRAIT of an author so popular in her native Sweden, and whose literary fame now shines so generally through the German and English, and we believe also the French, languages, is a welcome accompaniment to this new publication. The eyes appear large and lustrous, the nose a little broad, and the whole contour rather pleasing than pretty or beautiful. The fac-simile of her handwriting is very neat. So much for the externals here presented of the northern novelist. And what does she imagine good novel-writing to comprehend?

"Good novels—that is to say, such as, like good pictures, represent nature with truth and beauty—possess advantages which are united in no other books in the same degree. They present the history of the human heart; and for what young person, desirous of becoming acquainted with himself and his fellow-beings, is not this of the highest worth and interest? The world is described, in its manifold changing shapes, in the liveliest manner; and youth sees here, with its own eyes, maps of the land over which they [it] so soon must travel in the long journey through life. The beauty and amiability of every virtue is [are] in novels represented in a poetical and attractive light. The young, glowing mind is charmed with that which is right and good, which, perhaps, under a more grave and severe shape, might have been repulsive. In the same manner, also, are vices and meannesses exhibited in all their deformity; and one learns to despise them, even if they be surrounded by the greatness and the pomp of the world; whilst one feels enthusiasm for virtue, even though it struggles under the burden of all the world's miseries. The true picture of the reward of the good and the punishment of the bad among men, however little their outward fate may bear traces thereof, is set forth

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which one must wish to be given to every moral truth, in order to maintain it rightly and universally attractive, and productive of fruit. For the rest, it is natural that noble youth should love novels as their best friends, in whom they find again all the glowing, great, and beautiful feelings which they cherish in their own hearts, and which have given to them the first heavenly foreknowledge of felicity and immortality."

These are sound canons, though there are admirable varieties in the class, and exceptions to the definition. The forte of Miss Bremer herself does not lie in the qualities she has described, albeit she always administers that Moral justice which has somehow got to be called Poetical; and awards to virtue and vice their appropriate recompence and punishment. It is in the drawing of minute portraiture, physical and mental, that she excels, and in the truthfulness of her every-day life, the delineation of primitive manners, and, in a considerable degree, the description of external nature. In her writings imagination and romance have small share; and the highest development of human motive and action comes scarcely within her compass. Yet she traces the slight traits with fine skill; and, in the tale which occupies the first of these volumes, introduces one character, the blind Elizabeth, of deeper cast than is usual on her canvass. It opens with a family group of father, mother, three daughters, a grown-up son, and two younger boys, the teacher of the latter, a female superintendent, or, as she is called, house-counsellor, and the above-named Elizabeth, who are assembled together when the writer of their history arrives on a visit. The fortunes and misfortunes of all are told in Miss Bremer's peculiar and most attractive strain: the marriage of the eldest daughter is particularly well described; and the account of her disposition and feelings has much originality. The tragic fate of the blind ward, the martyr of a secret and fatal passion, is also a rather original conception; and contrasts with the happier portions of the story, which are not rendered sombre by the amiable spirit of the youngest, a deformed, daughter.

But we are not going to break in upon the plot; and are sure that a few brief quotations will be reckoned enough as a whet to the multitude of readers who will so soon make themselves acquainted with the H— Family.

Two of the opening group, with a juvenile addition, will illustrate that scene:—

"Near to her father sat the youngest of the daughters, the seventeen-year-old Helena. At the first glance one cast upon her, one was ready to pity her; at the next, to wish her happiness. She was plain and humpbacked; but intellect and cheerfulness beamed from her uncommonly bright eyes. She seemed to possess that steadfastness and repose of character, that clearness of mind, that stability and cheerfulness, which give a more sure guarantee for the repose and happiness of life than all those showy outward attractions which are worshipped and loved by the world. She was working zealously at a dress of white silk, and now looked up from her work to nod kindly and significantly at Emilia, or to raise to her father a glance of reverential, almost adoring tenderness. One might almost fancy that the colonel, most of all his children, loved this one whom nature seemed so hardly to have used; for often when Helena would lay her head upon her father's shoulder, and raise to him her affectionate glance, he would bend himself down to her, and kiss her forehead with an expression of tenderness which cannot be described. On the other

side of the colonel sat a young lady, the daughter of a relative. One might have taken her for an antique statue; so beautiful, so marble-white, so immovable was she. More beautiful dark eyes than hers were never seen; but ah! she certainly was to be pitied. Those beautiful eyes never more could behold the light of day. She had been blind from cataract for four years. That which ruled in her soul, whether storm or shine, it was difficult to see; its mirror was darkened, and something proud, cold, and almost half-dead, lay in her exterior, and repelled all questioning glances. It seemed to me as if she had said, with a feeling of proud despair, in the hour when fate announced to her, 'Thou shalt no more see light,'—said, with a solemn oath, 'No one shall see my suffering!' Still one other little group must come forth in my picture; namely, that which, in the background of the room, consisted of Magister Nup, distinguished for his good-nature, learning, silence, short-sightedness, his turned-up nose, and his absence of mind; together with his pupils, the little Axel and the little Claes, the youngest sons of the colonel, remarkable for their es-pecial good condition and plumpness; for which reason they had in the family the surname of 'the Dumplings.' The magister, spite of his wig having taken fire three times, hung now with his nose over his book in the nearest possible proximity to the light. The Dumplings ate rusks, and played at the famished fox, and waited for the fourth illumination of the magister's head, the approach of which they announced to each other, every now and then, by friendly elbow-jogs, and 'See now! wait now! now it comes!'

The nuptials of Emilia hasten on amid her prudential scruples, doubts, and fears, which almost overwhelm her resolution:—

"The great, the expected, the dreaded day came at length. Emilia, scarcely arisen, looked with a foreboding glance up to heaven. It was overcast with grey clouds. The air was cold and damp; every thing which one could see from the window bore that melancholy stamp which on the cold winter day weighs both upon the animate and the inanimate. The smoke which ascended from the chimney was depressed again, and rolled itself slowly over the roofs, blackening their white snow-covering. Some old women, with red noses and blue cheeks, drove their milk-carts to the market step by step, dragged by lean horses, which hung their rough heads nearer than common to the earth. Even the little sparrows seemed not to be in their usual lively tempers; they sat still, and clung together along the roof-spouts, without twittering or eating. Now and then one* of them stretched their* wings and opened their* little bills;* but it was done evidently out of weariness. Emilia sighed deeply. A bright heaven, a little sunshine, would have cheered and refreshed her depressed mind. Who does not wish that a bright sun may beam on their bridal-day? It seems to us as if Hymen's torch could not clearly burn, if it be not kindled by the bright light of the beams of heaven. A secret belief that Heaven does not look with indifference on our earthly fate remains constantly in the depths of our hearts; and however we may be dust and atoms, yet we see, when the eternal vault is dimmed by clouds or shines in splendour, in this change always some sympathy or some foreboding which concerns us, and often, very often, are our hopes and our fears—children of winds and clouds. Emilia, after a

* We need not farther point out the great want of grammatical accuracy into which Mrs. Howitt has fallen.—*Ed. L. G.*

sleepless night, and depressed by the events of the preceding day, was quite dispirited by this dull morning. She complained of headache; and after she at breakfast had embraced her parents and her brother and sisters, she requested that she might pass the forenoon alone in her own room. It was allowed."

The preparations in the house, and the conflict in her own bosom, are ably portrayed; and one national custom is marked, to give greater point to the latter. The company have assembled; and

"Now, thank God, here is Algernon at last. But how pale and serious he looks! And yet he is handsome. He goes up to her—see only how proud her demeanour is! He excuses himself, I fancy. What! he has had a horrible toothache—has just had a tooth out! Poor Algernon! Toothache on his wedding-day! What a fate! See now, they all sit in a circle. A circle of sitting people gives me the vapours. What do they talk about? I fancy really that they talk about the weather. A most interesting subject, that is certain. But it is not very enlivening. Hark! how snow and rain patter against the windows! It is horribly warm in here, and Emilia contributes to make the atmosphere heavy. I must go and speak to her.' Soon afterwards some one came in, and said that people were crowding on the steps and in the hall, wishing to see the bride. New torment for the bashful Emilia. She rose, but sat down again quickly, turning quite pale. 'Eau de Cologne! eau de Cologne!' cried Julie to me; 'she grows pale—she faints!' 'Water!' exclaimed the colonel, with thundering voice. The magister took up the tea-kettle and rushed forward with it. I know not whether it was the sight of this, or some effort of the soul to control her excited feelings, which enabled Emilia to overcome her weakness. She collected herself quickly, and went out, accompanied by her sisters, whilst she cast a glance of uneasiness and displeasure upon Algernon, who stood immovable at a distance, observing her with an usually [?], almost severe, gravity."—"The exhibition of the bride was ended; and Emilia, fatigued, left the room where, according to the customary, strange, but old usage of Sweden, she had been compelled to shew herself to a crowd of curious and indifferent people. 'They did not think her handsome,' said Julie to me, in a doleful tone; 'and that was not extraordinary: she was dark and cold as an autumn sky.' We had conducted Emilia to a distant room, in order that she might rest a moment. She sank down in a chair, put her handkerchief before her face, and was silent. Every thing in the drawing-room was ready for the ceremony. They waited only for Emilia. 'Smell at the eau de Cologne, Emilia. Sweet Emilia, drink a glass of water,' prayed Julie, who now began to tremble. 'They wait for you, best Emilia,' said Cornet Carl, who now came into the room and offered to conduct his sister out. 'I cannot—I really cannot go,' said Emilia, with a voice expressive of the deepest anxiety. 'You cannot!' exclaimed the cornet, with the greatest astonishment. 'Why?' And he looked inquiringly at us all. Julie stood in a tragic attitude, with her hands clasped above her head. Helena sat with an expression of displeasure upon her placid countenance; and I—I cannot possibly remember what I did; but in my heart I sympathised with Emilia. None of us answered."

Readers will perhaps be glad to learn that her irresolution was vanquished, that she was married, and that "towards the close of the repast [a sumptuous supper] skäls were drunk,

not ceremoniously and tediously, but gaily and heartily. The magister, warmed by the occasion and by the wine, made, glass in hand, the following impromptu in honour of the bridal pair :

'Hand about the brimming glasses;
Hurrah ! let us drain the bowl !
Let the foam the ceiling sprinkle;
Happy couple—here's your skål !
Ring the glasses altogether !
May we e'en, as now, be gay,
When, in fifty years, we gladly
Keep your golden bridal-day !'

Amid universal laughter and ringing of glasses the skål was drunk. Afterwards one was also drunk for the magister, who, I am persuaded, now regarded himself as a little Bellman.'*

A little bit of advice about after-house-keeping may be added, as sense after song.

"A woman ought to have her own purse, great or small, whichever it may be. Ten, fifty, a hundred, or a thousand dollars, according to circumstances, but her own, for which she accounts to—herself. Would you know 'why,' you gentlemen who make your wives render an account of pins and farthings? Why, most especially and particularly for your own sublime peace and prosperity. You do not think so? Well, then. A maid-servant knocks down a tea-cup, a servant breaks a glass, or suddenly tea-pot, cup, and glass, all at once fall in pieces, and *nobody* has broken them; and so on. The wife who has not her own purse, but who must replace the cups and glass, goes to her husband, relates the misfortune, and begs for a little to make good the damage. He scolds the servants, his wife, who ought to look after the servants. 'Money, indeed!—a little money—money does not grow out of the ground, nor yet is it rained down from heaven—many small brooks make a great river.' And such like. At last he gives a little money, and remains often in a very ill humour. Again, if the wife have her own little purse, then such little vexations never come near him. Children, servants, misfortune, remain the same; but no disorder is remarked; all is made right as at first; all is in order; and the head of the house, who, perhaps, with the greatest ease, could lay down a thousand rix-dollars at once, need not for few pence, squeezed out at different times, lose the equipoise of his temper, which is as invaluable to the whole house as to himself. And dost thou reckon as nothing, thou unfeeling nabob, those little surprises, those little birthday and namesday pleasures, with which thy wife can give herself the delight of surprising thee—those thousand small pleasures which, unexpected as falling stars, gleam, like them, on the heaven of home, and which must all come to thee from the affection of thy wife, through—a *little money*, which thou must give to her in the gross, in order to receive again in the small, with rich interest of comfort and happiness? Now, is it clear yet? Algernon had long seen this, and that operated greatly on Emily's future happiness. To every true woman's heart it is indescribably delightful to give,—to feel itself alive in the satisfaction and happiness of other;—it is the sunshine of the heart, and is more needed here in the cold north perhaps than elsewhere. Besides this, a little freedom is so refreshing."

Some wives, indeed, like to keep the purse altogether, and pilgarlick must beg for pocket-money; but Miss Bremer does not go the length of recommending this; and all that she does recommend we must now leave to be ga-

thered from her entertaining work; only mentioning that the second volume is filled with minor tales, including *Axel and Anna*, and a dramatic sketch of ancient times, called *Trälinna*. They will furnish very pleasant amusement; and the last, of a few pages, *A Letter about Suppers*, is so characteristic a touch of the manners of Stockholm, that we must make room for its principal items:—

"If thou wilt become acquainted at a distance with these pleasures of the great and elegant world, then accompany me in spirit for a few minutes, and thou shalt be initiated into the mysteries of suppers. We must adorn ourselves with flowers! Having been invited eight days ago to take part at the festival of pleasure, we must, in order to salute it, call up our freshest smiles! The clock strikes eight. We leave the glass with a parting glance to ascend into the carriage which is standing ready, which rattling will convey us through the streets of the city to where the beaming blaze of light beckons to us from a long row of windows. Not a word about disarranged curls, rumpled dresses, and the thousand other little travelling discomforts. One must forget something. One gets all one's array again into the speediest order, and reassumes that becoming smile which one had left upon the steps. The doors of the saloon are opened, and we float in. Is it the sirocco or the sirocco which is wafted towards us from the throng of people and lights? One of the two it certainly is, and thou feelest already a universal drowsiness and disabling diffuse themselves over thy intellectual powers. The greetings are over, we seat ourselves. God be thanked for good rest! If no earthquake happen, we shall not soon rise again. Closely seated together, the ladies mutually review each other,—pay compliments, and say polite things to each other—drawing up their mouths the while as if they were sucking in Sugarland. The eyes twinkle, the heads are in motion, the feathers sway here and there, the silken dresses rustle; there is a greeting, a questioning, and an answering; there is a murmuring and a busting, becoming by degrees ever fainter and fainter, like a dying-away storm. The murmur ceases—it begins again—it dies out—and all becomes still. They get the card-tables ready, carry tea about, exhibit engravings. People play and are silent—people blow and drink—people examine and yawn. It is hot and sultry. Slowly creeps on the time. The heat of the rooms increases, curls become straight, certain noses become red, the ears burn, the eyes fill with tears;—one gets uneasy, one turns oneself hither and thither, one puffs and plagues oneself. People try to begin a conversation. Bubbling ideas might enliven one's languishing feelings like fresh springs of water; but ah! ideas have gone out of our heads like the pomatum out of the hair, and we find ourselves hardly witty and clever enough to talk rationally about the weather. And if thou do exert thyself sufficiently to say something particular, thou wilt receive for thy answer a polite 'Yes,' or 'No,' or 'Hum,' or 'Indeed!' which will as much as say, 'My good one, do not give yourself any trouble!' See, there now approaches thee a gentleman with his hat in his hand, in order to make some diversion in the entertainment. What does he say to thee? Thou smilest really so gently. Was it something civil? 'No.' Something witty? 'No.' Something stupid? 'No.' Well, was it something, then? 'Yes, but something which was absolutely nothing. The poor fellow, he was rather sleepy,

had lost at the card-table; and was, moreover, under the influence of the supper-si-rocco. What then, indeed, could he say other than—It is terribly warm here!"—"They carry about ices and confectionery. Some refreshment is perceptible in the room and the senses. People stick their teaspoons into their mouths, and enjoy, and are silent. In the side-rooms one perceives the noise of the trumps which are struck by the players on the table. The company in the saloon sets itself now in motion—people turn themselves round—people rise up—they set down the little plates—they draw breath. The piano is opened. Good. The magic tones of music will probably put to flight the demons of ennui. They thrust in a half-timid, half-bold lover of music, that he may play. He asserts that he cannot, but still seats himself at the instrument. He redens, he turns pale, he trembles, but strikes forcibly upon the patient keys, and accords them to a song. Now, thank God that has ended, and has not gone off worse!"—"Dimmer and dimmer burn the lights, the heat becomes more oppressive, the air more sultry. People feel that they are just about to sink into dull unconsciousness; people compel themselves to be merry; they talk about fashions, dinners, members of parliament, and so on; one tries to squeeze it out of oneself; one overdoes it; one tells lies; one speaks slander, compelled by necessity, and in anxiety to say something however—and wishes oneself afar off. But slowly wear away the hours, the minutes stretch and expand themselves in the same way. One feels the need of doing so oneself. Yet once more one contemplates the engravings, but takes them in one's hand upside down. One still talks, but says yes instead of no, and no instead of yes; one suppresses yawns at the risk of being choked; one feels oneself weariful, other people intolerable; but one still keeps on simpering and smiling kindly. From eight to nine—from nine to ten—from ten to eleven—from eleven to twelve—have we sat quietly and patiently in this little hell of heat and courtesy. Our strength is at an end, midnight has struck, and now certainly people would either fall into a fainting fit or die; but the doors of the eating-room are opened, odours of eatables operate like *eau de Cologne* upon our nerves,—a voice proclaims, 'It is served'—and people are saved! The company rise hastily and in a mass. They go out in couples, or one after the other, into the eating-hall, where an inmeasurable table, a new land of Canaan, offers all dainty gifts of plenty and of luxury to the fainting wanderers coming out of the wilderness. People troop about the table; people throng together; each chooses a place for himself; this one will not sit by that; that one will not sit by this. At last they are seated. Now goes on the eating with the greatest and most earnest zeal. People eat and eat and eat. People feel a desperate desire by anything of activity to indemnify themselves for the long inactivity and torpid to which they have been subjected, and they seize upon the only one which offers itself. One eats till one is satisfied, more than satisfied; but one still eats on with unalterable zeal. At length the dessert is brought in. The mammas, satisfied themselves, cleverly empty the plates into their reticules and pocket-handkerchiefs—probably for the children who are left at home,—whilst the daughters read with great interest the devices upon the sugar-work, which upon its summit contains unexampled stupidity, and exercise their wit in guessing charades. The meal-time, thank God, has an end like every thing else. The money of the host, charged

* "A celebrated Swedish popular poet."

into veal-cutlets, tarts, and wine, rests in our stomachs. With this burden we withdraw again into the saloon, stand there yet a while *pour l'honneur*, and talk of nothing; take leave at length, and wearied body and soul drive home, that we may lie down in bed at one or half-past, with overladen stomachs, with empty heads and hearts, which have preserved from the lately passed hours no other remembrances than such as have for their consequences, on the following day, weariness and indisposition. In the mean time the host and hostess of the supper go about amid extinguished lights, and congratulate one another that the history is come to an end, and comfort themselves for the expense of the supper by its having been splendid, and that people have had a deal of pleasure with them. Deceived, short-sighted mortals;—wait—soon will your grateful guests thank you with new suppers, and the bill for ennui, which you now owe them, will be perfectly balanced."

The translation appears to be very literal, and thence occasionally not very English in idiom; besides the ungrammatical lapses we have already noticed, and which disfigure the construction throughout. This will be seen from our extracts; in the first of which, by the way, there is another curious over-sight, where it is stated that the *blind* girl was impervious to "all questioning glances!"

Our Actresses; or, Glances at Stage Favourites, Past and Present. By Mrs. C. Baron Wilson, author of "The Life of the Duchess of St. Albans," &c. 2 vols. London, Smith, Elder, and Co.

BIOGRAPHY, under every possible circumstance the most difficult species of literature, is made yet far more difficult when it attempts subjects like those embraced in the present publication. The majority of actresses have two lives—the one before the eyes of all the world, and the other such as the world, with all its prying, can know very little or nothing about: the first, being notorious, affords no food to gratify curiosity; and the last, being mysterious, keeps the food which would gratify that appetite darkling and concealed.

In executing her task Mrs. Wilson has generally slurred over conduct of great profligacy, though in several instances she has written with more asperity than could be justified by the facts of the cases, had she been perfectly informed about them. That such a work should be full of errors, both of omission and commission, was an absolutely necessary consequence—it could not be otherwise. No research could dive into the private recesses of the characters whose portraits are painted; and a respect for the *bons mœurs* of society has restrained the author from statements which could hardly have come before the public from any, and still less from a female pen.

The poor Ophelias are accordingly disposed of with maimed rites, and except for laudations of the correct and virtuous we cannot distinguish those so considered from the imprudent and vicious, so gently are their transgressions smoothed off and pitied. Mrs. Wilson's own idea is thus set forth:—

"As a biographer we have executed our task with the most impartial and discriminating justice in our power; and a certain wise philosopher has observed, that 'he who holds up to merited reprobation one bad character, serves more effectually the cause of morality than all the authors of ethical systems since the world began.' To be over-tender in allotting to vice its ignominy, would be in effect to withhold from virtue that portion of her praise which

consists in contrast. Nevertheless, we have avoided the distasteful task of dwelling upon objectionable subjects."

And again, in conclusion:—

"Those who have taken up these volumes expecting a feast for scandal, will lay them down in disappointment; while on the contrary, those who have merely looked for a biography and the public career of 'Our Actresses' will, we think, feel satisfied with the information here afforded them. Every possible means have been used to ascertain 'the truth.' We have stated nothing unadvisedly or without authority; and if there are 'chords in the hearts' of some of those whose memoirs it has been our lot to narrate, 'which, when touched, would utter discord,' ours has not been the hand to jar upon the strings; for we prefer rather to be censured for softening our sometimes unpleasing duties, than to inflict pain where exposure would not minister to usefulness. If, in our biographical researches, some are found whose lapses from the path of rectitude have not been severely animadverted on, let not the woman 'severe in virtue' unreflectingly condemn our silence. Flattered, caressed, surrounded from her very cradle by the adulation and applause which is to her as the air she breathes, 'the actress' has many temptations to contend with of which the woman in private life cannot even dream! And yet, despite all these poisonous influences on her purer feelings, the germ of affection takes as deep a root in her heart, and is as easily crushed or wounded, as it is in bosoms less sullied by the world. Exposed by the very nature of her avocations to the admiration of the other sex, is it a matter of marvel if 'the actress' too often falls an easy prey to her own vanity, and the arts of the flatterer, and brings discredit on the profession she has chosen and might adorn? In many instances which these biographies have brought before our knowledge, we have seen her regarded as a mere toy, the butterfly of a summer hour, while, like the moth, she has scorched her own wings in the real flame. Abandoned, deserted, too often betrayed, as we know to have been the case, by the very party who should have protected her from the world's insults, it is more to be lamented than wondered at, that in time the betrayed becomes the betrayer, and revenges on mankind in general the miseries inflicted by one. These are the shadows that steal over the dial of 'the actress's' life, and 'sweep away its sunshine!'"

The first volume contains twenty-one memoirs; the last no fewer than forty-six, of which the greater number are mere notices. Each volume is embellished with five clever portraits, which add much to the interest of the work.

We need scarcely remark, that those who look for full biographical information in these sketches will be disappointed: we could point out a number of erroneous particulars, and not a few of want of readily accessible intelligence. But still, so attractive are the stage and its denizens, there will be found considerable amusement in the perusal of these light pages, from which we extract, as a sample, portions of the notice of Mrs. Keeley, which, relating to an eminently gifted performer, and one as respected in private as admired in public, may well be separated from the mass for the purpose of agreeable illustration. It alludes to the successful trip of the Keeleys to America, and runs thus:—

"We have availed ourselves of a granted privilege from a contemporary actress, and have made occasional extracts from the ms. gleanings of 'Biddy Nuts,' and return our thanks

for the permission. If we are to speak of the national character, we have the very best authority for asserting that the Americans always were inquisitive, even before the Revolution. Dr. Franklin tells us that when he travelled, and wished to ask his road, he found it necessary, in order to save time, to preface his question with 'My name is Franklin; christened Benjamin; I am by trade a printer; I come from such a place, and I want to go to such a place; and now tell me which is my road.' It is well known that they keep up their character, as all modern travellers experience, the Keeleys among the rest. They had not been many days in New York, before Mr. Keeley received an invitation to pass as long a time as he pleased with an American gentleman whom he had known some years before in London, and who, learning from the newspapers, which are to be found in every village, that Mr. and Mrs. Keeley were expected from the *old* country, wished to have the pleasure of their company in the *new*. He wrote as follows in part of his letter of polite and hospitable invitation: 'I am up the country exactly 750 miles *due west* from New York, at Alligibbiawanki. If you mind your reckoning, you can't miss my house, as it's being roofed, and there isn't another dwelling within thirteen miles of it.' The polite invitation was declined, on account of other more pressing engagements. Mr. John Reeve was hipped and haunted with the horrid 'blues' before he left New York, which elicited the following from Mr. Manager Simpson on hearing his complaint:

'Says Reeve, 'A noise in my room I've heard; When I'm late and alone I have been very much daunted.' Simpson cried, 'You have cause to be scared; For, don't I very well know, 'tis by spirits you're haunted?'

They found Boston a most splendid and superabundantly wealthy city. It is the 'emporium of Quakers,' but they are a very different people from their English brethren—they have very little of the *starch*. The theatre was well attended, and the profit considerable. The New-Englanders (who are the veritable and peculiar Yankees) pride themselves upon their oratory—especially their forensic eloquence; they use its full force on all occasions, whether the subject be a mansion or a mouse-trap, a republic or a pigsty. A party of our comedians wished to have a specimen of their style, and entered one of the Boston law-courts for that purpose. A trespass-case was on. Some gentleman's lean porkers had walked into another gentleman's estate. The plaintiff's counsel was *immense*. Sheridan on the Begum question was never so eloquently excited as this forensic gentleman on the pork question. The following was his peroration:—'If, gentlemen of the jury, the defendant's hogs are permitted to roam at large over the fair fields of my client with impunity, and without pokes, then, gentlemen, yes, then have our glorious forefathers fought, bled, and died in vain!' They visited some of the schools of eloquence; among others 'The Storekeeper's Debating Society.' When the English party visited it, the question discussed was, 'Is there more pleasure in the possession than the pursuit of an object?' One of the debaters (a well-known and very respectable tailor, who rejoiced in the name of Salathiel Pop) thus interrogated:—'Mister President,—'Spose I was courtin a gal, and she was to run away, and I was to run arter her,—wouldn't I be happier when I catch'd her than when I was a-running arter her, eh?'—I pause, as the great Brutus said—I pause for a reply.' The English party was so much amused by these ora-

torical displays, that they resolved to attend the next meeting, which was regularly announced by the Lord Burleigh-like president, who used few words, but indulged in frequent shakes of the head, intended to denote *more than words*; for he was no orator, as Brutus (Pop the tailor!) was; therefore he had been voted chairman. On their second visit the subject for debate was the one in every man's mouth, if not in his heart,—*Liberty*. Keeley had been off duty, and had dined with a friend, and neither himself or friend had at that time ever heard of 'Father Matthew'; therefore could not have taken the pledge. They entered the oratorical arena—

'Hot with the Tuscan grape,
And high in blood!—'

at the moment that the Ciceronian schneider was on his legs, and had full 'possession of the floor'—as their parliamentary reporters term it. Liberty was his theme; but he had evidently arrived at some impediment, that his oratorical Pegasus couldn't o'erleap. 'Liberty, gentlemen,' he emphatically continued to repeat, 'Liberty—is—a—plant.' He paused, and then resumed.—'I say,—liberty is a plant'—another pause.—'And so is a cabbage!' cried

Keeley, in the republican tailor's own tone. This was too much for gravity; Momus for a moment gained the upper hand of George Washington; but tailors were there in force, —the stranger's observation, although witty, was wounding. As appearances seemed warlike, our English party, being antipugnacious, secured an honourable retreat, and reaching their hotel, did not go supplerless to bed. Mr. Keeley has immortalised—'Brutus Cabbage Pop,' tailor and liberty-monger of Boston, U. S. Pop has become a marked man for fun. The public dining tables are quite a new feature to those who have been used to the quiet and retired English mode of feeding. An affected, loud-tongued, consequential sort of female used to dine at the table d'hôte which the Keeleys frequented. Mrs. Keeley asked the mistress of the establishment who the garrulous object of her curiosity was, and the old lady mysteriously told her that she was the daughter of a well-known 'man of letters.' It turned out that she was the post-office keeper's daughter and assistant. A curious occurrence on a matrimonial subject took place while our comedians were 'down east.' There was a respectable man in Boston, who had two beautiful daughters—the girls were known to be dowerless. An old bachelor, a physician, known for his kindness of heart, wishing to change his life of single blessedness, had the father's permission to address either of his fair daughters on the tender subject; and as he was certainly unprejudiced as to which, he trusted to chance in his intended selection. He tossed up a dollar; head, for Eliza—the reverse for Anne. Head won; and the fair Eliza received the very business-like offer of the doctor's hand and heart; this offer she was not inclined to accept; so the following letter was written and sent.

'Dear sir,—I am sorry that I must refuse your kind offer; but I am sure my sister Anne would *jump at it*.—Yours, &c., ELIZA A.'—The philosophical gentleman immediately wrote as follows: 'Dear Miss Eliza,—I have to apologise for the mistake I made: I meant to have addressed my letter to Miss Anne:—have written to her per beaver.—Hoping soon to be your affectionate brother, J. B.'—And it is a well-known fact, that the doctor and 'Dear Anne' married, and as the 'Fairy Tales' say—lived happy together: while the fair but fastidious Eliza wedded a *scamp* for love. The scamp

became a bankrupt, and left her with two helpless children to penury and misery. But 'good aunt Anne,' being childless herself, adopted the little bereaved ones. Of course our comedians visited the 'Falls of Niagara.' At the hotel they met with a very charming young woman, who had been with a relative in the far West, where she had won the heart of an Indian chief of high repute in his dexterity in scalping his foes. The chief told her that if she would become his wife he would send one hundred otter skins to her relations; that he would never ask her to carry wood, draw water, dig for roots, or hunt for provisions;—that he would make her mistress over his other wives, and permit her to sit at her ease from morning till night, and wear her own clothes! that she should always have abundance of fat salmon and deer's flesh, and be allowed to smoke as many pipes of tobacco during the day as she thought proper. She refused all these advantages, and arrived safe in Boston, and was about to become a wine-merchant's wife.'

The Phrenological Almanac, or Psychological Annual. No. III. for 1844. Glasgow, J. and G. Coyer.

The Phrenological Almanac (Sheet) for 1844. Idem.

The People's Phrenological Journal and Compendium of Mental and Moral Science. Part XI. London, Berger.

The Phrenological Library. Part III. Gall on the Functions of the Brain. Idem.

This is our progress with phrenological publications. The first on the list is a publication of a comparatively high order. It treats of weighty subjects, as crime and punishment, mesmerism, &c., in a clear and lucid manner. We were especially amused by the phrenological sketch of Lord Brougham. The second is a cheaper publication, which contains the outlines of the science and woodcuts of remarkable heads.

The *People's Phrenological Journal* has undergone a change in size and in editorial management, and we wish it success. There is plenty of room for a publication of this kind, if conducted with spirit and morality. There are four editorial articles against phreno-magnetism, a subject not well grappled with; and one, we suppose extra-editorial, in which ridicule supplants reason, and tending to embitter, without cleansing, the pure fountain of knowledge. In combating the directly antagonist organs admitted by the phrenopaths, it must be remembered that the phrenologists themselves admit an indirect antagonism as between benevolence and acquisitiveness. But there remains an essential difference, which is well expressed by the question, What are the incentives to action where the organs of humility, and of pride or self-esteem, are both large or both small? the result must be, as far as action is concerned, as if neither existed. There is a sad want of logic in rejecting a thing merely because to admit it would overthrow a preconceived view. Yet this is the position in which the phrenologists place themselves with regard to the phreno-magnetists; they reject the multitude of organs imaginarily discovered by the latter, because not consistent with phrenology as it exists. Yet they admit phreno-magnetism (at least most of them do) as applied to phrenology, but deny it as applied to the multitude of mental functions, with their appropriate localities, which have sprung from this new mode of investigation. Others get over the difficulty by arguing, that in the indications of phreno-magnetism we have only the embodying or

expression of the thoughts of the magnetiser or of the individual in relation (*en rapport*) to the person magnetised; but they do not see that if they admit this with regard to the supposed multitude of faculties, so they must also with regard to those admitted by phrenologists. We wonder that the subject is not taken up in a simply metaphysical point of view. How is it possible to have organs for cold, sound, climbing, ease, velocity, bathing, shooting, madness, &c. (see *Phreno-Magnet*, No. II., p. 332)? It is a remarkable fact that Dr. Collyer, of Philadelphia, who was the discoverer of phreno-magnetism, has renounced his belief in the reality of the thing. He does not deny the genuineness of the facts produced by himself or others, but attributes them all to the agency of the will of the operator. This is probably the true view of the case; yet it is but fair, in as far as such an admission would also affect the indications of mesmerism as applied to phrenology, to mention that, at a late *soirée* at Mr. Partridge's, experiments were tried with a view to illustrate this position; and at the suggestion of Dr. Kinnear, manifestations similar to what were produced by touching individual organs were endeavoured to be produced by the doctor and also by the operator (Mr. Vernon) from the ends of the fingers, &c., but without the slightest success.

We have already expressed our opinion of the value of the *Phrenological Library* as a cheap republication of standard works upon the science.

FEATHERSTONHAUGH'S AMERICA.

[Third notice.]

We now come to the ruffian gamblers who infest the Mississippi and its numerous steamers.

"I had been told at the post of Arkansas that ten passengers were waiting to come on board, and that several of them were notorious swindlers and gamblers, who, whilst in Arkansas, lived by the most desperate cheating and bullying, and who skulked about alternately betwixt Little Rock, Natchez, and New Orleans, in search of any plunder that violent and base means could bring into their hands. Some of their names were familiar to me, having heard them frequently spoken of at Little Rock as scoundrels of the worst class. From the moment I heard they were coming on board as passengers I predicted to Mr. T*** that every hope of comfort was at an end. But I had also been told that two American officers, a Capt. D*** and a Lieut. C***—the latter gentleman entrusted with the construction of the military road in Arkansas—were also coming on board; and I counted upon them as persons who would be, by the force of education and a consciousness of what was due to their rank as officers, on the side of decency at least, if not of correct manners; and if those persons had passed through the national military academy at West Point, or had served under the respectable chief of the Topographical Bureau at Washington, I should not have been as grievously disappointed as it was my fate to be. It was true I had heard that these officers had been passing ten days with these scoundrels at a low tavern at this place in the unrestrained indulgence of every vicious extravagance night and day, and that they were the familiar intimates of these notorious swindlers. Nevertheless, believing that there must be some exaggeration in this, I continued to look forward with satisfaction to having them for fellow-passengers, confident that they would be our allies against any gross encroachments of the others. Very soon after

I had retired to the steamer at sunset the whole clique came on board, and the effect produced on us was something like that which would be made upon passengers in a peaceful vessel forcibly boarded by pirates of the most desperate character, whose manners seemed to be what they aspired to imitate. Rushing into the cabin, all but red-hot with whisky, they crowded round the stove, and excluded all the old passengers from it, as much as if they had no right whatever to be in the cabin. Putting on a determined bullying air of doing what they pleased because they were the majority, and armed with pistols and knives, expressly made for cutting and stabbing, eight inches long and an inch and a half broad, noise, confusion, spitting, smoking, cursing and swearing, drawn from the most remorseless pages of blasphemy, commenced and prevailed from the moment of this invasion. I was satisfied at once that all resistance would be vain, and that even remonstrance might lead to murder; for sickly old man in the cabin happening to say to one of them that there was so much smoke he could hardly breathe, the fellow immediately said, 'If any man tells me he don't like my smoking, I'll put a knife into him.' As soon as supper was over, they all went to gambling, during which, at every turn of the cards, imprecations and blasphemies of the most revolting kind were loudly vociferated. Observing them from a distance, where Mr. T*** and myself were seated, I perceived that one of them was the wretched-looking fellow I had seen at Hignite's, on my way to Texas, who went by the name of Smith, and that his keeper Mr. Tunstall was with him. The most blasphemous fellows amongst them were two men of the names of Rector and Wilson. This Rector at that time held a commission under the national government as marshal for the territory of Arkansas, was a man of mean stature, low and sottish in his manners, and as corrupt and reckless as it was possible for a human being to be. The man named Wilson was a sutler from cantonment Gibson, a military post, about 250 miles up the Arkansas: he had a remarkable depression at the bottom of his forehead; and from this sinus, his nose rising with a sudden spring, gave a feral expression to his face that exactly resembled the portrait of the wicked apprentice in Hogarth. The rubric on his countenance, too, was a faithful register of the numerous journeys the whisky-bottle had made to his proboscis. If the marshal, Mr. Rector, was the most constant blasphemous, the sutler was the most emphatic one. It was Mr. Rector's invariable custom, when the cards did not turn up to please him, to express a fervent wish that 'his soul might be sent to —,' whilst Mr. Wilson never neglected a favourable opportunity of hoping that his own might be kept there to a thousand eternities. This was the language we were compelled to listen to morning, noon, and night, without remission, whenever we were in the cabin. In the morning, as soon as day broke, they began by drinking brandy and gin with sugar in it, without any water; and after breakfast they immediately went to gambling, smoking, spitting, blaspheming, and drinking for the rest of the day. Dinner interrupted their orgies for a while, but only for short time; and after supper these wretches, maddened with the inflaming and impure liquors they swallowed, filled the cabin with an infernal vociferation of curses and a perfect pestilence of smoking and spitting in every direction. Lieut. C*** occasionally exchanged a few words with me, and appeared to be restrained by my presence; he never sat

down to play, but was upon the most intimate terms with the worst of these blackguards, and drank very freely with them. Capt. D***, with whom I never exchanged a word, was a gentlemanly-looking youth, and was not vulgar and coarse like the others; but I never saw a young man so infatuated with play, being always the first to go to the gambling-table and the last to quit it. Such was his passion for gambling that it overcame every thing like decent respect for the feelings and comfort of the other passengers; and one night, after the others had become too drunk and tired to sit up, I was kept awake by his sitting up with Rector, and continuing to play at high, low, jack, and the game, until a very late hour in the morning. Perhaps, however, the most remarkable character amongst them was Smith, the New Englander, with his pale dough face, every feature of which was a proclamation of bully, sneak, and scoundrel. I never before saw in the countenance of any man such incontrovertible evidences of a fallen nature. It was this fellow that had charge of the materials for gambling, and who spread the faro-table out the first evening of their coming on board in hopes to lure some of the passengers; none of whom, however, approached the table except the drunken youth who had behaved so ill on a previous occasion, and they never asked him to play, probably knowing that he had no money. Having found no birds to pluck on board, they were compelled to play against each other, always quarrelling in the most violent manner, and using the most atrocious menaces: it was always known when these quarrels were not made up by the parties appearing the next time at the gambling-table with their Bowie-knives near them. In various travels in almost every part of the world, I never saw such a collection of unblushing, low, degraded scoundrels."

Something or other led them to quit the vessel; and it is some satisfaction to read of their finale.

"Encouraged by the acquaintances they had formed on board of the steamer, some of these wretches removed to Vicksburg, and established gambling-tables at various low taverns, to which they decoyed the young men of the place; and, having plundered and debauched them, they at length became as depraved as themselves, and their constant associates. Emboldened by their numbers, and by the impunity which their desperate character appeared to invest them with, they threw off all restraint, and by their constant drunkenness and their crimes rendered themselves objects of terror to the rest of the inhabitants; occupying the streets in the day-time, armed with deadly weapons, and insulting every one that was obnoxious to them. This anarchy becoming intolerable, the citizens were driven to combine against them, and a crisis was soon reached upon the occasion of a public dinner, at which one of these men having contrived to get admittance, interrupted the festivity, and struck an inhabitant who endeavoured to keep him in order. Upon this an uproar took place, which ended by his being turned into the street. This fellow, whose name was Cabler, now hastened to his confederates; and, arming himself, returned with some of them to the public square, proclaiming aloud his intention to put to death the individuals who had been most forward in expelling him. At the square, however, he was met by the company he had insulted, and a small corps of volunteers, who had been dining with them, was seized, disarmed, and immediately taken to the woods. Tying him to a tree, they first proceeded to *Lynch* him in a severe man-

ner, then *tarred and feathered* him, and peremptorily ordered him to leave the place. The citizens being now roused, held a general meeting, and there passed a resolution that all these gamblers should leave the town in twenty-four hours, and had it placarded on the walls. On the morning succeeding to the stipulated time, the inhabitants in great numbers, accompanied by the volunteers, went to the haunts of the gamblers, and depated a part of their number to seize all the faro and *rouge-et-noir* tables; but on reaching a house occupied by a very desperate fellow of the gang, named North, they found it garrisoned by several of the most obnoxious of these scoundrels, all of them completely armed. The posse having surrounded the house, and broken open a back door, a volley was fired from within, by which a Dr. Hugh S. Bodley, one of the most respected inhabitants of the place, was killed on the spot. The fire was instantly returned, and one of the gang wounded; but the conflict was of short duration — for the assailants, enraged at the death of one whom they valued so much, stormed the place, and captured all who had not escaped: these were five in number, amongst whom was Smith, the pale dough-faced New Englander, who has been already alluded to as one of the gamblers on board the steamer. Shriveling time was not allowed to these miserable wretches; a gallows was instantly erected, and the extraordinary spectacle exhibited of the whole population of a town, headed by the leading inhabitants, many of whom were magistrates, conducting five men to execution — one of whom was desperately wounded — before any preliminary step whatever had been taken to bring them to a trial by the laws of their country. Such are the excesses to which the people of these climes abandon themselves when their passions are roused — never stopping to consider consequences, but madly sacrificing human life, and incurring the gravest responsibilities, upon the impulse of the moment! . . . A tumultuous mob, shewing a savage impatience to hurry on the execution, filled the air with execrations; whilst the captured and crest-fallen gamblers, preceded by a drunken black fiddler, were reluctantly dragged to the fatal tree by the volunteers and citizens. The names of these doomed wretches were North, Hallums, Smith, Dutch Bill, and M'Call — some of whom were dogged and malignant to the last. Smith, however, was thoroughly terror-stricken; he wept, he implored, he cried aloud for mercy, and evinced the most abject despair. Vain were these appeals; for the instant the gallows was ready, they were all launched into eternity, including the wounded man. It was the next morning before their bodies were cut down and buried together in a ditch. This transaction passed over without any subsequent inquiry by the constituted authorities."

[To be concluded in our next No.]

The Practice of the Water-Cure, with authenticated Evidence of its Efficacy and Safety.

Part I. By James Wilson, M.D. 8vo, pp. 94. We have had previous occasion to notice Dr. Wilson's able treatises on the water-cure; the present is a defence of the system, effected by the scarcely professional means of "authenticated letters" from Admiral this, Sir A. B., and Mr. C. W., and followed by "authenticated cases" treated at Malvern. However, when systems are attacked, it is but fair that their advocates should place themselves in the most advantageous position for defence, and we cannot ourselves well see what there is unprofessional in the publication of successful cases,

except it is that, not publishing the unsuccessful, they mislead the public. The obvious way to have arrived at truth, and convinced the thoughtful public, would have been to publish the hygienic statistics of the Malvern water-cure establishment; and we throw this out as a hint to Drs. Wilson and Gully for Part II.

The Wellington Despatches, &c. By Col. Gurwood. Part II. Murray.

This excellent new edition proceeds in regular order with the records of the illustrious warrior's services in India, the field where his military genius was nurtured. Eight parts, or two volumes, will complete his Indian campaigns, and may be considered as a work in itself. For the first volume Lawrence's portrait is to be engraved.

BELONGING to his series of popular publications Mr. J. W. Parker's late issues are *Cuvier and Zoology* (pp. 136), containing an historico-biographical account of the science from Aristotle to the present day, and particularly of the extraordinary services of Cuvier, opening, as it were, the old world anew to us; a volume of four stories exhibiting the characteristics of Ireland, Scotland, Norway, and Switzerland, apparently compiled from books relating to these countries; *The Lord and the Vassal* (pp. 139), illustrating the mediæval ages with their feudal systems and customs; and a second edition of Sir Francis Palgrave's *Truths and Fictions* of the same period (the middle ages), in which the manners of the monks, merchants, parliament-men, citizens of London, and other classes, are set forth in a very instructive and entertaining way. The little work is full of varied information.

A Russian's Reply to the Marquis de Custine's Russia in 1839. Edited by H. J. Bradfield.

Esq., author of "Tales of the Cyclades," &c. THE Marquis de Custine's *Russia* has furnished themes for both the late *Edinburgh* and *Quarterly Reviews*; and the latter in particular has given it a severe handling, which is tolerably justified by the above work published in Russia and France, and well done into English by Mr. Bradfield. It is not surprising that the Marquis's description of Russia, from the court to the people, should have provoked a defence of both from any well-disposed native pen. But after the able expositions of our elder and bigger brethren (bigger in their separate births, but not near so big in their year's growth), we need not now enter upon the specialities of this case. It seems to us that M. de Custine is one of the genus who think so much of themselves as to have some reference to that self-idol in all they say or do. They never get rid of their individuality; and we have poets, authors, statesmen, and philosophers endow of this character. Upon it much of the traveller hinges; and thence it is that M. de C. digresses so much, is so frequently verbose and dogmatical, and comes to such erroneous inferences about matters, which even on his own shewing would lead all the rest of the world to other conclusions. He libels the entire Russian empire, whether truly or falsely the end of the paper-controversy will not determine; but there can be no doubt that many of his facts and assertions are capable of contradiction.

Anecdotes of Actors, with other Desultory Recollections, &c. By Mrs. Mathews. 8vo, pp. 430. London, T. C. Newby.

A SMART preface introduces this volume of light reading; and as theatrical anecdote-mongering has long enjoyed the privilege of being amusing, we may notice the present publication

as one of the class, though much of its matter is old to us, and some has appeared before in *Fraser's Magazine*. There are, however, stories of Bannister, Downton, Russell (old Jerry, whose own reminiscences, if he would write them, would compete with, if not beat, all others), Fawcett, Kemble, Quicke, Munden, Cooke, Dignum, Colman, Hook, and many more, which may possess novelty, and if so, produce entertainment, for those whose ignorance is bliss. The whole is a chance-medley, the shaking of the bag out of which the previous biography of Mathews was gathered; and the best joke in the volume we think is that where a waiter was charged by Mathews with not placing on the table, as he had promised, as fine a saddle of mutton as had pleased him the day before, replied, he could not understand its being inferior, as he saw it cut from the very same sheep as the former!

The Progress of the Nation, Social, Economical, &c. By G. R. Porter, Esq., F.R.S. Pp. 473. C. Knight.

A SMALL volume with a fund of information on almost every national subject of interest—internal resources and foreign relations—such as could only be got together by a clear and comprehensive mind enjoying the most favourable opportunities for acquiring correct views. Mr. Porter is not a theorist, bending every thing to preconceived opinion, but a close observer, active collector, and judicious reasoner upon facts. His volume is accordingly one of high public value; and as its initiative notices and ideas are wrought out by time and events, will be looked to as a source of intelligence and reference of a very solid kind.

The Naval Forces of France compared to those of England, by H. R. H. the Prince of Joinville, Admiral of the Fleet. Literally translated from the French, by B. H. Beecham. Pp. 32. London, W. E. Painter.

A TRANSLATION of the famous letter of the French naval prince which has made so much noise in the newspapers, and certainly merited to be preserved in this form.

Steill's Pictorial Geography: England. Pp. 140. London, B. Steill.

THE growing predilection for the aid of pictorial illustration to impress subjects through the eye on the mind and memory of youth, is neatly and cheaply courted in this school-book.

Cartouche, the celebrated French Robber. By R. B. Peake. 3 vols. London, Cunningham. This peculiar history has appeared in a contemporary publication, by which, if not its freshness and novelty, at any rate its liability to our criticism has been worn off. Of the species *Gil Blas*, it has lost nothing at the hands of the humorous dramatist Mr. R. Peake.

Life: a Romance. By * * *. 3 vols. Newby. THREE volumes, written by three stars or asterisks, and of a romantic and sentimental turn. Its moral inculcations are of a pure description, and its reflections on life more serious than could be looked for in work of fiction. Of course, the entertaining is no feature belonging to it, though it is in some parts interesting.

The Old Church-Clock. By R. Parkinson, B.D. 12mo, pp. 153. London, Rivingtons; Manchester, Simms and Denham.

We are glad to see the words "second edition" on the title-page of this very pleasing and instructive tale, which pleads alike the cause of the poor and their interest in the church, wherein they should seek and find succour and consolation in adversity.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

June 7 (last evening meeting).—Mr. Faraday "On recent improvements in the manufacture of mirrors." The immediate subject of the illustration was the process of silvering glass by precipitation, recently patented by Mr. Drayton. The old method of manufacturing mirrors with quicksilver backed with tin foil, the surplus mercury pressed out with weights, was first explained and exhibited. Then the new process was shewn and described, but not explained, for as yet there appears to be no known elucidation of the combinations and separations that occur, or rather, of the philosophy of the phenomena. The materials used are, a solution of nitrate of silver, spirits of hartshorn, oil of cassia, and oil of cloves. The latter appears to be the precipitant; for immediately it is added to the mixture of the other ingredients, the pure silver is separated equally over the whole surface with which it may be in contact, whatever the material, though on glass more readily, and as yet most usefully. The effect of the coating of pure silver on the glass is very beautiful, it exhibits on the latter the dark surface of the highly polished silver of the daguerreotype plate, and renders it a most perfect reflecting body. The precipitation or separation of the silver takes place, and the metal adheres to the surface whatever its shape may be, or in whatever position, horizontal or vertical, the plate may be. We may repeat, that the effect of the new process is most beautiful, and that the mirror so formed is superior to any other; so black is the mirror that the surface of the plate is scarcely perceptible. We hear that the silver coating is to be backed with a varnish; but we are not aware whether this has been adopted practically, or whether mirrors of this description have as yet been manufactured for sale. Besides the accounts of the old and new methods of silvering glass, Mr. Faraday gave a most interesting relation and illustration of the manufacture of that extraordinary body itself, which was listened to with marked attention by a crowded audience.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

June 10.—Mr. W. R. Hamilton in the chair. Read—"An account," communicated by Lord Stanley, "of an exploratory journey to Lake Torrens, Australia," by Capt. Frome, R.E., surveyor-general of South Australia. On the 20th July, Capt. Frome, having left his dray and the larger portion of his party at a point of the Blackrock hills, in lat. 32° 45' 25", took only a light spring cart, the bottom filled with kegs containing sufficient water for three days for the horses, and provisions for one month, which was as much as the cart would contain. The object was to ascertain the southern terminus of the eastern branch of Lake Torrens, as laid down by Mr. Eyre; and also the nature of the country between Flinder's range, as high as the parallel of Mount Hopeless, and the meridian of 141° (the eastern limit of the province). Proceeding in a direction N. by E., the traveller came to a watercourse, running like all the streams he subsequently crossed at the eastern foot of the range, in a N.E. direction—this was the Siccus, having a section nearly equal to that of the Murray, and with indications of not very remote floods having risen to between 20 and 30 feet above its bed. Having crossed this river, Captain Frome was obliged to hug the hills on his left for the sake of water, thus going northward as far as the parallel of 30° 59', where the lake became visible

within 15 or 16 miles, and appeared from the high land to be covered with water, studded with islands, and backed on the east by a bold rocky shore. This was, however, only an effect of mirage, for, on riding to the spot the following day, not a drop of water was to be seen in any direction. A salt crust was seen at intervals on the surface of the sand at the margin of the lake, or, more properly, of the desert. The sand became more and more loose, without the slightest trace of vegetation, rendering hopeless any attempt to cross with horses. Having proceeded as far as Mount Serle, Capt. Frome was convinced that Mr. Eyre's eastern arm of Lake Torrens was, in reality, the sandy desert he had left, and whose elevation above the level of the sea was 300 feet. From Mount Serle, the traveller returned southward to Pasmore river, whence he struck across to the low hills stretching away eastward to the south of Lake Torrens, the most northern of which he reached the second evening. Want of water, however, prevented Captain Frome from going as far as he wished; but from the position he had reached, he could plainly see the whole country within 50 or 60 miles of the boundaries of the province, which presented the most absolute sterility. The captain is nevertheless of opinion, that in the wet season, and by carrying water for eight or ten days, the distance, 160 miles from Prewitt's Springs to Mount Lyell, might be crossed by a small party, but from thence to the Darling, 80 miles further, no water would be found. Besides, it would be madness to attempt anything on that river without a considerable force, on account of the natives; whereas the Laidley Ponds might be reached with any number of men in as short a time, and with more certainty, by ascending the Murray and proceeding north from thence. On returning to the depot, Capt. Frome moved the party down to Mount Bryan, and endeavoured to proceed thence in a north-easterly direction; but though the hills had an elevation of from 1200 to 1500 feet above the plain, there was no indication of rain having fallen there since the deluge. To proceed was, therefore, impossible. From Mount Porcupine, the highest of the hills, a clear view was obtained in every direction, and a more barren, sterile country cannot be imagined. Capt. Frome concludes by observing, that there appears to him to be no country eastward of the high land extending north from Mount Bryan as far as Mount Hopeless, a distance of about 300 miles, as far as the meridian of 140°, and probably much beyond it, available for either agricultural or pastoral purposes. The country presents, in many places, the most unequivocal marks of volcanic action.—Dr. King's account of Capt. Beerost's ascent of the old Calabar river, kindly communicated by Mr. Jamieson of Liverpool, was also begun, but was too long to be concluded at one sitting. When it has been wholly read, we will give an abstract of it.

CIVIL ENGINEERS.

June 11.—The president in the chair. The paper read was by Mr. A. Angus Croll, "On the purifying of coal-gas, and the application of the products thereby obtained to agricultural and other purposes." The object of Mr. Croll's purifying process is, to separate the ammonia. This he effects by passing the gas through a solution of sulphuric acid, of the strength of two and a half pounds of oil of vitriol to one hundred gallons of water; and by a continuous supply of acid, so that the proper amount of free acid might be always kept in the vessel. The whole of the ammonia in the gas being

abstracted, prevents the corrosive effect of this impurity on the fittings and meters through which it was transmitted, and renders the gas capable of being used in dwelling-houses, and also enables the gas-companies to use dry-lime, instead of wet-lime purifiers, without producing any nuisance on the opening of the vessels, by which a considerable saving was effected, while, at the same time, sulphate of ammonia of great purity is obtained, and of such a strength that the evaporation of one gallon produces eighty ounces of this valuable salt, instead of fourteen ounces, the quantity rendered under the former process. Mr. Croll's process has been introduced at the Chartered, the Imperial, and the Phoenix gas-establishments, from which several tons were being produced weekly, independent of the provincial gas-companies. The author concluded his paper by shewing the great advantage to agriculture by the application of this produce to the land, besides its extensive application to the arts and manufactures. He stated that various experiments upon an extensive scale had been tried with this manure with great success. One example will suffice for giving an idea of its powers:—One half of a wheat-field was manured with sulphate of ammonia, at the rate of 1½ cwt. to the acre, and at a cost of 1l. 2s.; the other half with the ordinary manure. The latter produced only 23½ bushels of corn; but the former, under the treatment of sulphate of ammonia, produced 32½ bushels: thus shewing the immense advantage derived from its application. The author gave an extract from the *Mark-Lane Express* of the 27th of May last, from which it appeared that seeds of wheat steeped in sulphate of ammonia on the 5th of July, had by the 10th of August tillered into nine, ten, and eleven stems, of nearly equal vigour; while seeds of the same sample, unprepared, sown at the same time and in the same soil, had not tillered into more than two, three, and four stems.—In the discussion that ensued,—in which Prof. Grahame, Mr. Cooper, and many members of the Institution, took part,—the advantages of the system were confirmed, and the necessity of its extension insisted upon. The various modes of purifying gas, and the value of the products obtained for agricultural purposes, were canvassed at length. It was stated, that seeds steeped for forty hours in a solution of one pound of sulphate of ammonia to one gallon of water, sown in unmanured land, produced a heavy crop, and remained green during a dry season, when every other kind of vegetation became yellow and withered. Another remarkable feature was, that faded flowers, when plunged in a weak solution of sulphate of ammonia, were in a short time perfectly restored and revivified; and that plants watered with it attained extraordinary health and beauty.—The great loss resulting from the leakage of the gas through the joints and the pores of the cast-iron pipes was incidentally mentioned; and it was stated that in some instances it had amounted to from 25 to 75 per cent of the total quantity produced.

The following papers were announced to be read at the next meeting:—"On the means of rendering large supplies of water available in cases of fire, and on the application of manual power to the working of fire-engines," by Mr. J. Braidwood; "On the construction and proper proportions of boilers for the generation of steam," by Mr. A. Murray.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

At the meeting of the 12th inst., amongst other papers, one by Dr. Pereira "On the for-

mation of scientific committees for the advancement of pharmacology," was read. The author states, that those who have made the *materia medica* an especial object of their study are well aware how much ignorance still prevails with respect to the natural history and origin of a considerable number of the substances used in medicine. Many points remain to be settled, questions to be answered, and uncertainties to be resolved, with reference not only to exotic, but even to indigenous products; not merely to rare, but also to some of the commonest drugs; not simply to modern, but also to some of the oldest articles of the *materia medica*. He then shews, and justly, that no country in the world possesses so many facilities for carrying on such inquiries as Great Britain. The efforts of private individuals are totally inadequate to effect the objects aimed at. But a committee, established under the auspices of some influential public body, might do much; and as Dr. Pereira believes the Pharmaceutical Society to be the most appropriate institution for undertaking such investigations, he has drawn the attention of its council to the propriety of taking the matter into their most serious consideration. His object now has reference principally to the natural history of the *materia medica*; and the committee, which he is anxious to get formed, might with great propriety be denominated "The Natural-History Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society." It would be the duty of this committee to prepare from time to time lists of queries, agenda, and desideranda, for each part of the world from whence medicinal products have or may be obtained, and to entrust such lists to competent persons, and to receive and register their answers, &c. Dr. P. also proposes pecuniary aid from the funds of the society. Prof. Royle and Dr. A. T. Thomson spoke in favour of Dr. Pereira's proposition, bringing forward many instances in which public benefit might be gained by such a measure; and the members of the society generally coincided in the opinion. It was understood that the subject would be discussed by the council at their next meeting.

ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

At the meeting on Wednesday a paper was read "On the inhabitants of the Maldivian Islands," by Capt. Young and Lieut. Christopher. They are described as having in general a pleasing cast of countenance, and in colour and make much resemble the Moors of India; their general height is about 5 feet 2 inches; many exhibit in their physical, and especially facial, conformation an admixture with the African race, doubtlessly the Zanzibar slaves of the Caffre cast of features, occasionally imported by the Muscat vessels; but the proportion of persons of this description to the whole population is inconsiderable. Some individuals of the higher orders have a much fairer complexion than the common people, which is probably attributable to descent from Persian stock. The ordinary dress of the men consists of short drawers, with a cloth wrapped round the waist, and another about the head, the waist-cloth being twisted into a knot in front, which is supported by a string encircling the loins. The head people wear in addition a sash of embroidered silk or cotton, and on Fridays, when attending the grand mosque, a white turban and shirt reaching to the ankles. The men shave their heads, but are free to allow the hair to grow on the face. The women's dress consists merely of a cloth wrapped round the waist, which, descending to the knees, is secured by a string, and a long shirt which has no open-

ing except for the head and neck, and also a cloth tied round the head. In contradistinction to the men, they allow their hair to grow long and fasten it up behind. They are fond of ornaments, wear bangles, and their ears are pierced, when very young, all round the edges, to which they hang light trinkets. They are not kept from the view of strangers, or in a state of seclusion, as in most Mahomedan societies. Marriage is not very early contracted, but a plurality of wives is allowed; few, however, are able to support more than one. Intrigues are not uncommon, and the men shew no small ingenuity in carrying them on when the correspondence is with a married woman. For a widow to live with a favourite is not accounted criminal, and scarcely disgraceful. The principal articles of food are rice, fish, bread fruits, cocoa nuts, saggy, and occasionally a few fruits and vegetables. These are produced on the islands, with the exception of the rice, which forms the largest constituent of every meal, being considered necessary for the preservation of health, and is generally mixed with grated cocoa-nut. On festival-days and occasions of public rejoicing, feasts of strength and skill are exhibited under rules and restrictions to prevent injury or danger to the performers. Wrestling formed part of these games, but has of late been prohibited, owing to some severe falls having taken place. The weapons employed in these exercises are swords, spears, and quarter-staffs; to teach the use of which, and prepare the several actors, there are masters appointed by the sultans. It is not deemed beneath the dignity of the principal men to take part in these games. They are a quiet, peaceable race, hospitable and kind to strangers, though suspicious and distrustful of them; unacquainted, indeed, with the practice of the higher virtues, but equally unfamiliar with vice in its darker forms. Towards each other they are kind and friendly, and to their own kindred very affectionate, of which Captain Young and Lieutenant Christopher saw many pleasing evidences in their attendance upon the sick. Humanity and charity are virtues in great esteem, but in relieving the wants of their fellow-creatures they do so with ostentation. Their language, mode of government, religion, and superstitions were stated at length, and formed an interesting feature in the history of the people. Captain Young and Lieutenant Christopher remained for some months on one of the islands of the group, for the express purpose of obtaining a knowledge of this hitherto unknown variety of mankind.

A rare and curiously modelled figure in gold was exhibited by Mr. Brown, valued, by weight, at upwards of twelve pounds. It was found, that gentleman informed the meeting, at the margin of the lake Guavilite, situate on the summit of a ridge of mountains, about eight leagues from Santa Fé de Bogota, the capital of the republic of Columbia. This lake, previous to the conquest of New Granada by the Spaniards, was considered sacred by the natives of that country, and into it they were accustomed, at certain periods, to throw their treasures as offerings to their deities. The scenery round the lake is magnificently romantic, well calculated to make a powerful impression on the mind. By the remains still to be seen of extensive works, it is evident that various attempts had been made by the Spaniards to drain the lake; and it is on record that, about 80 years ago, so much gold was got out, that the quinto to the Crown amounted to upwards of 80,000 dollars. At that time also, we are told, an emerald of immense value was found

and sent to Madrid. A very animated discussion ensued after the reading of the paper.

SALMON-FRY: EELS.

At the last meeting of the Oxford Aschimolean Society, Prof. Twiss communicated some interesting intelligence relative to the breeding of salmon which he had obtained from Mr. A. Young, the manager of the Duke of Sutherland's fisheries on the river Shin, in Sutherlandshire. The collection consists of thirteen specimens of the ova, selected at intervals varying from 20 to 123 days from the time of their being deposited; and ten specimens of the young fry, from the day on which they were hatched, the 135th after impregnation, to the time when they assume the silvery character of the smolt, and descend to the sea, which in this case was one year and nine days after exclusion from the egg. The experiments of Mr. Young, which have now been carried on through a period of three years with the greatest care, confirm the previous well-known observations of Mr. Shaw in the Nith, in their general bearings, with such slight variations as the different characters of the respective rivers may account for. Mr. Young has ascertained that the average period required for hatching the ova of the salmon of the Shin river varies from 100 to 140 days, according to the greater or less warmth of the weather, whereas Mr. Shaw found the average time in the course of his experiments to vary from 90 to 115 days. Mr. Young considers that the fish passes through the condition of parr, whose characteristics are the transverse bands, and assumes the silvery appearance of the smolt, in about twelve months from the time of being hatched; and he is disposed to think that some of the young fish which have been deposited as ova, and therefore hatched late in the season, do not assume the smolt appearance, nor go down to the sea at the end of the first year, and that this fact may account for some of Mr. Shaw's fry not reaching the smolt state the first spring, though it may be connected with local circumstances.

The professor called the attention of the society to the importance of these observations in connexion with the preservation of the young fish (called parr, garets in the south of Scotland, and other names in other localities), which have hitherto not unfrequently been taken and destroyed as if a distinct species of trout—to the increased facility of propagating peculiar breeds or races of fish by transporting the ova, when impregnated, in water from one river to another—and to the great value of careful notices as to the spawning seasons of the fish of different rivers, in order to fix a more discriminating system of legal regulations as to the fence-months. He alluded to the new regulations adopted by the authorities of Neufchâtel, at the suggestion of Prof. Agassiz, in allowing the full fish to be taken by the fishermen, on condition of the ova being mingled in water with the milt, and so returned in an impregnated state to the waters of the lake.

Dr. Buckland alluded to the great probable advantages of hatching the ova in artificial ponds with a view to the preservation of the young fry. In the experiments of Agassiz and Sir F. Mackenzie, it was found necessary to feed the young fry with the paunches of sheep. The growth of the fish after it descends to the sea was stated by an old fisherman at Axmouth to average a pound a month, and the fish of different rivers appear to return to spawn at very different periods. The food of the salmon in the sea is probably the jelly-fish—for the stomach has many blind sacs, and seems adapted

for rapid digestion. He referred to Prof. E. Forbes's observations on the shelly mollusca, of which the young, when hatched, are locomotive, and float about with little wings: these perhaps furnish food for the salmon. He alluded also to the advantage of assisting the ascent of the salmon by staircases, where the falls of rivers are too high to be cleared by a single leap of the fish.

Mr. Rigaud stated that a gentleman in Devonshire, who was an experienced naturalist and a very careful observer of the habits both of trout and salmon, had found ova in the parr, as if the female fish were equally mature in this early condition with the male fish, contrary to what had been observed by Mr. Shaw.

Dr. Buckland, in explanation, observed that the functions of the ovary in some animals commence almost in the foetal state.

Prof. Twiss afterwards read a letter from Mr. Young respecting the propagation of eels, from which the following are extracts:

"1st January, 1844.

"You are aware that the broad and sharp-nosed eels are inhabitants of all our northern rivers, and were supposed, even said, to descend to brackish water to spawn, and return in spring to the rivers. On the 28th of April, 1842, we had what we call the eel-fair, or eel-fry, ascending the rivers. I then took a few of them from the river, measuring from an inch to an inch and a half in length, and placed them in a pond closely grated. They grew very fast in course of the following summer; and, in fact, so tame, that as soon as I threw in meat of any kind, they ate with the greatest familiarity; but on the approach of winter they entirely disappeared, and through the course of winter I thought they were dead; but last spring, as soon as the weather and water turned warm, they again appeared, and very soon got into their familiar habit. I often fed them last summer; and on 21st October, 1843, I caught one of them in the pond, measuring twenty-five inches, which I have preserved in spirits; the remainder in the pond have disappeared as last year on the approach of winter, and will not appear until April or May month. The rivers were very low in July month, and I watched the motion of the eels in swarms on the sand and gravel banks in the river Shin as I thought spawning, and would have mentioned the circumstance to you while here, had I not wished to be more certain; but in October last I got a few men, and made them wheel out one of the gravel banks, where I observed the eels altogether, and found it swarming with young eels, at the depth of from six to fifteen inches, and some of them scarcely alive. This entirely changes the former history of the eels; and the habits of our river eels are as follow:—The adults spawn in the summer months in sand and gravel banks in the rivers, and do not descend to brackish water to deposit their spawn. The spawn becomes vivid in the following September and October, but remain under the gravel in the spawning-beds until the following April or May, depending entirely upon the heat and cold of the weather. We never have the eel-swarm or fry at the exact same time, although we have it some time in April or May. And the adult eels, in place of emigrating, get into holes in the banks of the rivers and underneath large stones as soon as the water turns cold, and remain stationary until the warmth of summer again heats the water of the rivers."

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD, June 6.—The following degrees were conferred:—

Masters of Arts.—W. Long, Balliol, grand compounder; N. Darnell, fellow of New College; Rev. H. M. Stowes, St. Edmund Hall; Rev. G. F. Morgan, Christ Church; T. H. Roper, St. John's College; J. B. Riddle, Wadham Coll.; Rev. R. T. Mills, Magdalene College; Rev. J. P. Bremridge, Exeter College; Rev. J. Collingwood, Pembroke Coll.; Rev. W. J. Groves, Rev. W. A. Paxton, Trin. College; J. Turner, W. Fox, Balliol College.

Bachelors of Arts.—Lord Viscount Lewisham, Christ Church; J. T. A. Swan, Lincoln College; T. P. Rogers, student; F. L. Lamotte, Christ Church; G. H. Egerton, Brasenose College; J. Rigaud, demy of Magdalene College; H. N. Ellacombe, Oriel Coll.; W. J. Farter, J. C. Keate, Balliol College.

The prizes for 1844, given by the Chancellor, and bequeathed by Sir Robert Newdigate, have been thus awarded:—Latin verse: E. Palmer, scholar of Balliol College. English essay: C. E. Pritchard, B.A., fellow of Balliol College. Latin essay: H. Smith, B.A., fellow of Magdalene College. English verse: J. L. Breerton, scholar of University College.

CAMBRIDGE.—*The Camden Gold Medal*, given annually by the Marquess Camden for the best exercise in Latin hexameter verse, was on Monday last adjudged to W. Johnson, scholar of King's College. Subject, "Archimedes."

The Chancellor's Gold English Medal, annually given by the Duke of Northumberland to the undergraduate who shall compose in English the best ode or poem in heroic verse to E. H. Bickersteth, Trinity College. Subject, "The Tower of London."—*Camb. Chron.*

Archaeological Association.—The first annual meeting of the British Archaeological Association is fixed for the second week in September, and will be held at Canterbury; president, Lord Albert Conyngham. A good meeting is expected, and, no doubt, the visitors will pass an agreeable week, as all the ancient monuments and public exhibitions, &c., will be freely thrown open to them. Many papers on interesting antiquarian and historical subjects are already, we understand, in preparation; and Lord Albert Conyngham proposes to invite the members who meet there to be present at the opening of several ancient Saxon barrows near his seat at Bourne Park. Steps have also been taken to obtain an Egyptian mummy, which will be opened and lectured upon by Mr. Pettigrew.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK:—

Monday.—Statistical, 8 P.M.; British Architects, 8 P.M.; United Service Institution, 9 P.M.
Tuesday.—Linnean, 8 P.M.; Civil Engineers, 8 P.M.
Wednesday.—Microscopical, 8 P.M.; Ethnological, 8 P.M.
Thursday.—Royal, 8½ P.M.; Antiquaries, 8 P.M.; Numismatic (anniversary meeting), 7 P.M.; British and Foreign Institute, 8½ P.M.
Saturday.—Royal Botanic, 4 P.M.

FINE ARTS.

The Print-Collector: an Introduction to the Knowledge necessary for forming a Collection of Ancient Prints; containing Suggestions as to the Mode of commencing Collector, the Selection of Specimens, the Prices and Care of Prints; also Notices of the Marks of Proprietary used by Collectors; Remarks on the Ancient and Modern Practice of the Art, and a Catalogue Raisonné of Books on Engraving and Prints. 4to, pp. 211. London, Saunders and Otley.

This title-page completely explains the nature of this very useful work, the result of many years' experience and careful observation. It therefore needs no farther character from us, and we have only to say it ought to be the *vade-mecum* of every admirer and collector of prints; and quote a passage or two of amusing illustration, in the first of which, at any rate, we are bound to feel an interest. The author says:

"While noticing ridiculous errors, we cannot resist mentioning one more laughable mistake, though it be not so closely connected with our subject as those already related. When the inimitable artist of our own time, George

Cruikshank, had first attained his celebrity, a publisher of the day, who had employed his brother Robert an etcher of very inferior talent, took care to omit, in his advertisement, the Christian name, in order that the publication might pass for the work of 'the' Cruikshank; a remonstrance was made, and the 'Literary Gazette' took occasion to warn the public against being misled by this disingenuous artifice; and when that journal next reviewed a work of George Cruikshank, namely, the 'Points of Humour,' published in 1824, the reviewer ('Literary Gazette,' No. 372) set out thus: 'Assuredly George Cruikshank is the real Simon Pure; he is eminently gifted,' &c. A few years after this, Nagler began his Dictionary of engravers, 'Neuves Allemagnes Kunstler Lexicon,' and, meeting with this article in the 'Literary Gazette,' and totally ignorant of the allusion, familiar to English readers only, he construed the sobriquet as conveying an invaluable piece of secret history, and when, in his alphabetical order, he came to our artist, he records him thus: 'Cruikshank, George, a celebrated caricature designer and engraver, in London, whose real name is Simon Pure!'"

"This ridiculous mistake calls to mind the dedication, by Scopoli, of a plate in his 'Delicie Flora,' to Benjamin White, the bookseller, at Horace's Head, in Fleet Street, 'Auspiciis Benjamini White et Horatii Head, bibliopolorum Londinensis.'"

Of the same kind are the following:

"In all cases where more than one state of a print is known, sale catalogues, if properly constructed, take care to notice the 'state' of each print offered for sale, and, in important instances, describe the characteristic distinctions. As the descriptions given are, often, taken from foreign catalogues or works, and as the compilers of our catalogues are not always good linguists, the public are occasionally amused with laughable errors, arising from this imperfect knowledge of the original language. Thus, for instance, there is a portrait by Rembrandt called 'The Young Haaring,' in which is introduced, in the second state, a curtain-rod, across a window, which is behind the figure. The French catalogue of Mr. Robert Dumessnil's collection, describing this state of this print, properly designates it as 'La planche entière, avec le tringle à la fenêtre.' The English catalogue of the sale of this collection, in April 1836, enters the lot thus: 'Lot 256, Young Haaring, second state, the plate being entire, with the triangle at the window!' In the large print, by Rembrandt, of 'Ecce Homo,' always, but improperly, called 'Christ before Pilate,' one of the marked distinctions of the early state is the position of the lower part of the drapery of one of the figures with respect to the belt, which is buckled round his waist, sustaining his sword. This print, in this early state, formed lot 82 in the sale just referred to. The French description of this characteristic of early state runs thus: 'Le bas de la veste de cette figure dépasse le ceinturon de son épée,' which our English translator, in Mr. Phillips' catalogue, renders thus: 'The bottom part of the dress of this figure goes beyond the sword of the centurion!' In Rees' Cyclopædia, the writer of the excellently composed article, 'German School of Engraving,' in noticing the principal prints by Albert Durer, has evidently taken his catalogue from some French authority, where he found 'The Prodigal Son' described, as might be expected, 'L'Enfant Prodigue.' Not being himself conversant with the works of Albert Durer, nor much more so with the French language, the cyclopædist

translates his original, 'The Infant Prodigy!' The first state of the portrait of 'Asselyn,' the painter, by Rembrandt, is characterised by the introduction of a painter's easel, which is seen behind the figure, but which Rembrandt afterwards expunged, so that, in the after state, it does not appear. The Dutch catalogue of Amadé de Burg's collection, in June 1755, very correctly describes this first state, 'met den Ezel achter zig,' that is, 'with the easel behind him.' Unluckily, the Dutch word 'ezel' has two meanings, namely, a painter's easel and an ass; and in a French translation, which the same catalogue gives, on the opposite page, the translator, knowing nothing of the print, happened to select from his dictionary the wrong meaning, and renders the passage, 'avec l'âne derrière lui!'"

And, by way of a finish to these anecdotes, we may mention another amusing blunder in which our *Gazette* also originated the absurdity. We gave a burlesque account, in our No. 1411, of an explosion in Van Diemen's Land, which was finally traced to the blowing up of the cliff near Dover for the new railroad. Would it be credited that this has been seriously translated into a French scientific journal as a fact in natural history? Such is the case, and so dangerous is it to be jocular or humorous.

The Royal Academy.—Mr. Hume has given notice in the House of Commons that he will on an early day move a humble address to her Majesty to appoint a commission to examine the rules and laws of the Royal Academy, with the view of rendering that institution more effective for the promotion of the Fine Arts.

National Monuments.—Among the imperial bequests of the Emperor of Russia on leaving England, after only too short a stay amongst us, none have afforded more gratification to the people than the gift of 500,000 each to the two national monuments now in progress to commemorate the heroic services of Nelson and Wellington. The column in Trafalgar Square was, of course, seen by his majesty; and it is to be regretted that he had not an opportunity of witnessing the casts of those portions of the Wellington group in Mr. Wyatt's studio, from which an idea may be acquired of its prodigious magnitude. Every thing had been prepared for his reception; but H. I. M. was too much hurried to be able to accomplish the wish he had intimated to inspect this the largest bronze work of art in the world.

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

CIVIL ENGINEERS.

The annual *soirées* given by the president of the Institution of Civil Engineers rank high in the estimation of men of all classes. Year after year they are thronged with men of science, with artists, with literary men, with nobility, with legislators, and with gentry. Their well-deserved popularity is attributable to the urbanity of the host, Mr. Walker, and to the good catering of the secretary, Mr. Manby. An annual visit to Mr. Walker's is sufficient always of itself to bring one up in the inventions of the season, for there every novelty (or models of them) of the past year is sure to be seen. Lists of the visitors on the evenings of Friday and Saturday last week, and of the objects submitted to their notice, would fully prove the truth of these remarks. Our limits, however, prevent this. We therefore select for notice a few only of such as more particularly attracted our attention and that of the numerous guests.

Among the most novel articles in the rooms,

or rather on the staircase, we observed a pair of gigantic candlesticks made of slate, from the Pantdrainiog slate-quarry, Bangor, North Wales, presented by G. K. Pollock, Esq., an associate of the institution. We remember when on a tour in the country some years ago, and admiring the handsome chimney-pieces, fittings-up of dairies, cool, clean, and wholesome-looking slabs of this material, applied so cheaply to so many convenient domestic and interior purposes, that the owner of one house, where it was much employed, told us jocularly that they made every household thing of slate there, except bed-curtains; but we confess that even this had not prepared us for the sight of handsome slate-candlesticks. These admit of fine polish, are pleasing in colour, hard, and durable. The quality seems to be of a very superior kind, and they are truly excellent specimens of the article.

There were some very good busts by Mr. J. E. Jones, one of Major Blakeney, the other of Mr. Charles Manby, the secretary. A very beautiful and simple sketch made at Stratfield-saye of his Grace the Duke of Wellington on horseback, by Mr. E. H. Bailey, was much admired. Some bronzes from the collections of F. Hodgson, Esq., M.P., Mr. Deville, and Mr. Grissell, were tastefully arranged in the rooms; as also wood carvings from Rogers, Pratt, and Vincent. A very beautiful engraving of the Duke of Beaufort's dog by T. Landseer, from a recent picture by his brother Edwin, and a Maltese dog by the same clever artists, were much admired. Portfolios of sketches by Oliver, Buss, Kendrick, Tripp, Gastineau, and Goodall, were exhibited; and a portfolio of lithographs of eminent men by Baugniet. Scanlan had several excellent sketches of scenes of domestic life. Part of a collection of rings intended to illustrate the most remarkable events in Grecian history, formed of beautifully carved heads of the ancient Greek philosophers and poets, attracted much attention; as did also some natural flowers coated with metal by electro-deposit, by Elkington and Co.'s process; and some from Mr. Ibbetson. Mr. Dennys contributed a bust of Lorenzo de Medici, by Michael Angelo. Some models in terra cotta, by B. Sangiovanni, a Neapolitan, were very good, especially that of a dying brigand supported by his wife. Mr. Dunn, of the Chinese Museum, had some fine carvings in stone; one a cameo, presented to him when in China by Howqua and other Hong merchants, and by them said to be worth four thousand pounds. Further in the rooms were chronometers from Dent and Frodsham, and also a machine for tracing ellipses by Mr. Farey. In this room was an exquisite model of a light 6-pounder, to a very small scale, by Mr. J. Munro, contributed by Mr. Nurse, of the Polytechnic Institution. In the model-room, which was lighted by two gas chandeliers, and Faraday's ventilating principle, were various models of steam-engines, by the Earl of Dundonald, G. Rennie, Borrie, Boulton and Watt, and Maudslay and Field. On the centre table was a full-sized model of Greener's harpoon-gun, which has been found very useful in the whale-fishery trade; also a life-boat by the same gentleman; around these were neatly arranged models of Captain Bullock's safety-beacon, erected on the Goodwin Sands, the South Bishop's Rock, and Coquet Island lighthouses, a ballast-lighter, and a raft off the Maplin Sand lighthouse, all from the Trinity House; a Ruasian barrel for lifting large vessels over sand-banks, a model of the Victoria and Albert yacht, of her Majesty's ship Rattler, of Sir W. Symond's schooner yacht, and other interesting models from the Admiralty; Bremner's

apparatus for building harbours in deep and rough water; models of various forms of screw-propellers, from G. Rennie, F. P. Smith, Galloway, and Grantham; Mitchell's screw-pile light-house and battery, intended for the Goodwin Sands; Bush's caisson, and a compass by the same gentleman, intended for the royal yacht; a model, designed to shew the principle of the atmospheric railway, from Mr. Vignoles; Prosser's timber-railway and locomotive, with guide-wheels for traversing very sharp curves; Barlow's hollow iron keys for fastening the rails to the chairs; and Wood's soft metal bearings for railway axles; models of agricultural implements, from Cottam; models of London Bridge, with its coffer-dams and part of the centering; Stoneleigh Abbey Bridge, built by the late John Rennie; and Scotney Castle, modelled by Mr. Dighton. The walls of this room were beautifully covered with specimens of cannabis composition, a new material for architectural decoration, contributed by Mr. Ponsonby.

In the lower rooms were the heavier models of machinery, consisting of Bunnell and Corp's concentric steam-engine, Bodmer's breaks for heavy machinery, also screwing-taps and cutters, and a machine for making cutters; various kinds of tools from Whitworth and Holtzapffel; Moreweather's compact cabinet fire-engine; Davison and Symington's mode of cleansing brewers' casks; Haddon's railway-wheel; a grometer, by Clegg; and a numerous collection of other interesting models of works of art.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.

The distribution of the rewards on Monday, by Prince Albert, was the most interesting we have witnessed for some years, and encourages the sanguine hope, that this society, phoenix-like, is rising from its ashes. No better sign can be offered than that it has added nearly 200 members to its list within the last year and a half, since Mr. Whishaw (who stated the fact in his report) had been secretary. The report having been read by that gentleman, highly to the satisfaction of the densely crowded room, His Royal Highness proceeded to deliver the medals, &c.; first to the successful candidates, fourteen in number, in mechanics and other practical arts; and then to fourteen equally fortunate with their productions in the fine arts. To Mr. P. Lucas was given the silver medal for a very ingenious self-adjusting step-ladder for wharfs; it rises with the tide, and, according to circumstances, consists either of ascending steps, a plane, or descending steps, so that the transit of goods from the vessel to the wharf is always most convenient and easy. A beautiful lever microscope by Mr. C. Varley would require a very long description to render intelligible; and improved house-tiles, carpenters' cramps, ships' scupper-mouths, ruling machine for engraving (they are too much used), anatomical modelling, expanding centre-bits, &c. &c. were duly honoured. It was gratifying to observe, that some of the persons so distinguished were working mechanics; and the deep attention which the prince bestowed upon the explanations of their clever inventions must have been very pleasant to them. One of the most remarkable things was the gift of a medal to Mr. J. Common, of Denwick, Northumberland, for his mode of putting new roots to old trees! From the samples handed about, it appeared to consist of cutting off a tap root and grafting fibres all round the stem, which shoot out (like grafts in the ordinary manner on trees above), and draw the nutriment to the plant as if they had formed its original parts.

In the Fine Arts some very promising paint-

ings, drawings, &c., were exhibited, and some by very youthful candidates. A method of producing enamel lights and shades, as in oil-painting, by causing the porcelain plate to take unequal surfaces, equivalent to the laying on of colours, seemed to us very meritorious. Mr. J. Haslem is the discoverer of this novelty. A simple method of making night-signals in white, red, and blue lights, was another striking feature; but the whole time of the meeting was so filled with specimens of ingenuity and skill, that it would require a volume to describe them all. To the indefatigable exertions of the secretary and the directors, and to the condescension and interest taken in the products of their patronage by H. R. H. the prince, the society owes much; and we think there can be no doubt of the advancement and continuance of its renewed prosperity.

We had almost forgotten Mr. Sholl's humane and admirably contrived bee-hive at work in the window. Sir C. Wren had one in 1654, but this seems to be the two centuries better.

THE DRAMA.

French Plays.—Plessy terminated a brilliant engagement last week, and she has given place to Dejazet, who has appeared in several of her favourite rôles, and with her usual complete success. Her style and line of acting are unapproached by any of her contemporaries. Wednesday next is dedicated to the benefit of Mr. Mitchell, the lessee, and the powerful attractions he has put forth cannot fail to ensure a delightful evening to his numerous patrons. Dejazet in *Le Capitaine Charlotte*, and a new vaudeville, in which Dejazet and Labasson appear, with the polka as danced by Forgeot and Albert, who lends her aid on the occasion, and the highly amusing lively piece of *Georgette*, to conclude, furnish a treat indeed. We heartily wish the lessee every encouragement his exertions so justly deserve.

Hanover Square Rooms.—We have to notice two concerts held here in the course of the week; the morning concert of Signor Marras on Tuesday, and the evening one of Miss Christiana Weller on Thursday. Signor Marras was assisted by a numerous list of instrumental and vocal performers, amongst the former of which was Miss Weller herself. The chief of the latter were Signor Marras, Madam Anna Thillon, and Mrs. A. Shaw. The Signor was much applauded in a new recitative and cavatina by Donizetti, and was encored in his own barcarola, "Io te voglio bene assaje." A similar compliment was paid to the duo sung by him and Madame Thillon, "Un bandeau," from *Richard Cœur de Lion*. Mrs. Shaw was delightful in a rondo from *Cenerentola*, and in the ballad from the *Brides of Venice*, "By the sad sea waves." Miss C. Weller, on Thursday, gave chiefly pianoforte recitals, in which she exhibited her proficiency and her powers of executing the intricacies of modern composers, Listz, Thalberg, &c. She fully maintained her provincial celebrity. Her performances were very brilliant, and the entertainment went off with continuous éclat.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

SONNET.

Most attributes of the eternal God
Belong to us in some remote degree;
Our nature hath in each capacity
A portion of that Spirit whose abode
Is in the land by mortal never trod,
And which no fleshly eye shall ever see;
And the soul dreams, that when it shall be free
From its mortality's depressing clod,
In that sweet land, redeem'd from death and pain,
It shall be quicken'd with new energy,

Nor human feebleness e'er feel again :
Our hopes of glory point us to the sky ;
We are not all of earth—there is a chain
Which links us to the unknown world on high.
U.

VARIETIES.

Colonel Stoddart and Captain Conolly.—Capt. Grover has received further letters from Dr. Wolff at Meshed, but not of later date than those the purport of which we have already published in the *Literary Gazette*. Among their details, however, they state that Dr. Wolff, on examining Mohammed Ali Seraf, Col. Stoddart's agent, had found him out to be a lying treacherous knave, with property of the colonel's in his possession to the value of 2000*l.*, and correspondence broken open, and not forwarded to its destination. It appears, therefore, that no reliance can be placed on his report. A chief of a caravan, named Kurban, who goes to Bokhara every three months, states that Stoddart and Conolly are alive, and imprisoned in the Kalai, outside Bokhara ; and the Doctor says, "Kukulli, a Turcoman chief, shewed me a letter from his brother at Bokhara, in which he states that Stoddart is alive to a certainty ; and his Excellency the Assoof Adowl (viceroy) of Khorassan, to whom I sent the king's courier to inquire where I should go to meet him, at Madaon or Meshed, sent me word that Stoddart and Conolly were alive last year." Dr. Wolff states that the Saleh Mohammed, who communicated to Colonel Sheil the report of the death of Stoddart and Conolly, is not the Saleh Mohammed whom he knew in the year 1826. He also mentions that an ambassador from Russia had just arrived at Bokhara.

Sir John Franklin.—We have much pleasure in noticing the safe and happy return of this distinguished officer from Van Dieman's Land. He is in excellent health, and most welcome to the many personal and scientific friends whom his amiable qualities and great attainments have attached to him.

The British and Foreign Institute held its first general annual meeting yesterday week, — the Earl of Devon, president, in the chair. Mr. Buckingham read a report, which gave a favourable account of the progress, funds, and numbers of the society, which was approved of, and ordered to be printed for distribution.

The Booksellers' Provident Institution has appointed Wednesday next for its anniversary, at Greenwich ; Mr. James Duncan in the chair, and supported by a long line of stewards, including many individuals eminent as publishers, and others connected in various ways with the literature of the country. There is every prospect of a meeting such as the excellence of the institution deserves.

Consumption Hospital.—The ceremony of laying the first stone on Tuesday, at Brompton, was an imposing sight ; and the arrangements for the fancy bazaar were admirable. The half-crown visitors on the first day numbered upwards of 5000. The receipts altogether, for admissions and purchases, exceeded, we are happy to say, the expectations of the most sanguine.

Mr. Heywood Bright's Manuscripts, which come under Mr. Leigh Sotheby's hammer next week, are an exceedingly curious collection, and nearly 300 lots. Among them are the "Miracle Plays performed in the city of York in the 15th Century," a fine manuscript upon vellum, unique and unpublished ; *Chaucer's Canterbury Tales*, upon vellum ; "The Register of Warden Abbey, Bedfordshire" ; "Wilhelm Malmiburiensis de Gestis Anglorum," a fine ms. of the 13th century, uncollected ;

"Autograph Life and Diary of William Wake, Archbp. of Canterbury," unpublished ; "State Papers of Sir Henry Unton, Ambassador in France, 1591-92," unpublished ; and a splendid Illuminated Psalter of the 14th century.

Mr. Webster of the Haymarket Theatre has become lessee also of the Adelphi.

The Weather.—It is stated that there has not been so long a continuance of dry weather in spring and summer since the year 1785.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

In the Press.—The Iniquities and Barbarities of the Church of Rome in the Nineteenth Century, by Raffaele Ciocei.—The Witch of Endor, and other Poems, by R. A. Vaughan, B.A.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

A Course of English Reading, adapted to every Taste and Capacity, by the Rev. J. Pycroft, 12*mo.*, 6*d.*—Latin Grammar Practice, by the Rev. J. Pycroft, 12*mo.*, 2*s. 6d.*—Greek Grammar Practice, by the Rev. J. Pycroft, 12*mo.*, 3*s. 6d.*—Introduction to a Scientific System of Mythology, by C. O. Muller, translated from the German, by J. Leitch, 8*vo.*, 1*s.*—An Outline of the various Social Systems and Communities which have been founded on the Principle of Co-operation, 12*mo.*, 5*s. cloth.*—Thoughts suggested by a few bright Names, and other Poems, by Emma Bloodworth, 32*mo.*, 2*s. 6d.*—The Seven Penitential Psalms, in Verse, by M. Montagu, post 8*vo.*, 5*s.*—Ocean Thoughts : Homeward bound from India, 12*mo.*, 3*s. 6d.*—Law and Practice of the Crown Side of the Court of Queen's Bench, by Brady and Scotland, 12*mo.*, 1*s.*—A Treatise on Bar-Harbours, by W. B. Pritchard, 4*to.*, 20*s.*—Hand-Book to Central Europe, by F. Coghlan, 12*mo.*, 8*s.*—History of China, by T. Thornton, Vol. I. 8*vo.*, 1*s.*—Memoirs of a Babylonian Princess, 2*vo.* post 8*vo.*, 1*s.*—Poems, Legendary and Historical, by R. M. Milnes, 1*ep.*, 5*s.*—Poems, by Coventry Patmore, 1*ep.*, 5*s.*—Tyler's Elements of General History, a new edition, with a Continuation by T. E. Tomlins, 8*vo.*, 4*s. 6d.*—Poetry of Common Life, with a Preface, by the late Dr. Arnold, 18*mo.*, 2*s. 6d.*—Spain and the Spaniards in 1843, by Captain S. E. Widderston, R.N., 3*vo.*, 8*vo.*, 2*s.*—Turk-Betting Simplified, by Rolla Rouse, 18*mo.*, 2*s. 6d.*—Foreign Library, Scotland, by J. G. Kohl, 8*vo.*, 2*s.*—Sacramental Instruction, by the Rev. C. Bridges, 1*ep.*, 2*s. 6d.*—The Christian Lady's Magazine, Vol. 21, January to June 1844, 1*ep.*, 7*s.*—The Orphan of Waterloo, by Mrs. Blackford, 12*mo.*, 6*s. 6d.*—A Visit to the Courts of Vienna, Constantinople, Athens, &c., by the Marchioness of Londonderry, 8*vo.*, 1*s.*—Lectures on Agricultural Chemistry and Geology, by J. F. W. Johnston, 8*vo.*, 2*s.*—Edith Leslie : a Novel, 3*vo.*, post 8*vo.*, 1*s. 11*s. 6d.**—J. D. Dana's System of Mineralogy, 2*ed.* 8*vo.*, 2*s.*—New Pocket-Guide to the Isle of Wight, by A. Whitehead, 18*mo.*, 2*s. 6d.*

DENT'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME.

[This table shews the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.]

1844.	h.	m.	s.	1844.	h.	m.	s.
June 15 .	12	0	8 6	June 19 .	12	1	0 4
16 .	—	0	21 4	20 .	—	1	13 5
17 .	—	0	34 4	21 .	—	1	26 5
18 .	—	0	47 4				

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The continuation of the critique on the Royal Academy Exhibition, omitted this week, will be given at greater length in our next.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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At a GENERAL MEETING of the MEMBERS of the
INSTITUTE held this day,

The Right Hon. the Earl of DEVON in the Chair,
The Report of the general state and progress of the Institute,
with the Balance-sheet of its Receipts and Expenditure, having
been read.

It was moved by E. BAYLISS, Esq.; seconded by GEORGE JONES, Esq.; and carried unanimously—

That the Report and Balance-sheet be received and adopted, and
entered on the minutes of the Institute.

Moved by WM. TITTS, Esq.; seconded by HENRY TUDOR,
Esq.; and carried unanimously—

That the Report and Balance-sheet be printed and circulated
among the members.

Moved by JAMES SIMPSON, Esq.; seconded by the Rev.
G. KENWICKE; and carried unanimously—

That this Meeting are of opinion that the management of this
Institute has been most satisfactory; and they rely upon the
Committee to use all their influence to render it every day capable of
being carried into effect consistently with the fundamental prin-
ciples of the original prospectus of the Institute.

Moved by WILLIAM TATE, Esq.; seconded by Dr. ESTRE; and
carried unanimously—

That the best and most cordial thanks of this Meeting be given to
the Right Hon. the Earl of Devon, for the great attention he has
paid to the interests of the Institute, to which its establishment
and progress are most satisfactorily attributed, and particularly for
his conduct in the chair this day.

Moved by Dr. CAMPS; seconded by J. BETHUNE BAYLY,
Esq.; and carried unanimously—

That the warmest thanks of this Meeting be presented to Mr.
Buckingham and the Committee, for their services and exertions in
conducting the affairs of the Institute during the past year.

(Signed) DEVON, Chairman.
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